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Bubble bursts for Bubbles' Mansion

BUSINESS It's back to wrangling shopping carts for Bubbles and his crew.

Bubbles' Mansion, a Halifax bar owned in part by the actor who portrayed the bug-eyed character on the Trailer Park Boys TV show and movies, has gone out of business.

Brad Hartlin, manager of the nightspot that opened in 2006, blamed the decision in part on a municipal ban on cheap drinks.

"We decided that ... if we have to make a change, the business became not viable," he told the CBC.

Actor Mike Smith, who portrayed the myopic Bubbles in the cult show, was a part owner of the bar.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCAN LIFE

WHAT'S THIS BARCODE FOR?

Find out on the Local page.

Metro Homes pg 19



Spring: A time for renovations

On the web

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Globetrotters



Special K Daley tries to connect on an alley-oop during the first half of last night's Harlem Globetrotters game against the Washington Generals at the Metro Centre.

Alley-oop

NDP off the hook

Window closed; cops won't probe campaign funding allegations

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

Police will not investigate or lay any charges around inappropriate union donations to the Nova Scotia NDP because the issue took too long to get into their hands.

After consulting with prosecutors, Halifax Regional Police determined any charges would fall under the Members and Public Employees Disclosure Act.

That act states investigations must begin no more than six months after the alleged event. That deadline has passed, so police said yesterday they had no choice but to shut down the investigation.

Chief electoral officer Christine McCulloch released a statement saying she regrets there cannot be a full police investigation. "Unfortunately, the possible offence was not discovered until after that time (the deadline) had passed," McCulloch said in the release.

Last spring eight unions

in the Mainland Building and Construction Trades Council each donated the maximum \$5,000 to the NDP. It was later discovered the Council was reimbursing the unions for their donations, which contravenes election laws.

The NDP claimed it did not know the donations were inappropriate and McCulloch's investigation confirmed there was no reason the party should have known. However, the party was fined \$10,000 when McCulloch revealed it did not return the money.

Party secretary Ed Wark took the fall for what was called an "error in judgment" and resigned.

The Tories called for a public inquiry yesterday, but Premier Darrell Dexter dismissed that as political posturing. He said the issue had to do with the unions, not his party. He's not looking into changing the law.

"To what end, I guess, is the question. The chief electoral officer, the RCMP, everyone knows what the deadlines are," he said.

"I just see no need for it, let me put it that way."

Botched sale of NB Power may benefit Nova Scotia

NB POWER The collapse of the NB Power sale to Hydro Quebec could open up new opportunities for Nova Scotia to ship its tidal energy to New England, Premier Darrell Dexter said yesterday.

Dexter and Newfoundland and Labrador Pre-

mier Danny Williams had expressed worry the proposed sale could shut them out of New Brunswick's lucrative transmission lines. Those fears were eased yesterday when New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham announced he was calling

off the sale.

"It's a bit of a surprise simply because we all knew New Brunswick was very much committed to it," Dexter said.

"This now means there is an increased opportunity for us to co-operate regionally on NB Power

strengthening our transmission grid."

Dexter said he never opposed the deal, but was fighting to get assurances that would protect his province's interests.

The botched sale breathes new life into Nova Scotia's plan to become

a pipeline stop between hydro-rich Newfoundland and New Brunswick. Such a transmission line would open up the lucrative New England market for the province's growing tidal power industry.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX
MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 10

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Local



Porter adds Halifax-Montreal route

The Halifax International Airport Authority announced yesterday Porter Airlines has added a non-stop Montreal route, with a connecting flight to St. John's from Halifax. The service will begin June 25 and operate twice daily until Labour Day. After Sept. 6, the Montreal route will be available four times weekly — once Thursday, once Friday and twice Sunday. Porter currently has planes flying from Halifax to Toronto, Ottawa and St. John's.

METRO HALIFAX

Ban on Common concerts urged

Councillor wants big shows moved to Garrison Grounds starting next year

ALEX BOUTILIER
for Metro Halifax

Connaught-Quinpool Coun. Jennifer Watts has put forward a motion that would put an end to large-scale concerts on the Halifax Common.

The motion, which will be debated by councillors next week, seeks to move all major concerts from the North Common site on the Halifax Common to Garrison Grounds on Citadel Hill beginning next year.

The motion also suggests planned upgrades to the Halifax Common be undertaken to enhance existing uses, rather than to support infrastructure needs for major concert events.

"(The motion) is not saying no to major concerts," Watts told Metro. "My position is why don't we continue to have really great concerts at the Garrison Grounds ... and if we really want to do much larger concerts, we really need to be looking at another site."

Watts said she brought



Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley from Kiss perform on the Halifax Common in this file photo from last summer. Coun. Jennifer Watts wants to ban concerts from the North Common.

forward the motion over concerns her constituents were telling her regarding the conditions and uses of the Common — a space, she noted, that is held in common for citizens of Halifax.

According to Watts, the

current memorandum of understanding with the municipality states concerts of 30,000 to 35,000 people should be held at Garrison Grounds, while anything more than 40,000 would be considered for the North Common.

But local promoter Harold MacKay said losing the Common as a concert space would be a big blow to HRM.

"As a local promoter of major concerts, we've had great success on the Halifax Common," MacKay

Country festival

Country music star Alan Jackson is headlining a two-day country music festival on the Halifax Common this August.



Jennifer Watts

said. "I don't want to see it happen, because otherwise I have to take (concerts) to Moncton and other places, and that's not good for the economy."

MacKay also disagreed the Garrison Grounds can support an event with 30,000 people, saying the number is somewhere closer to 20,000.

He also noted the positive economic spinoff of last summer's Kiss and Paul McCartney concerts, which he placed somewhere near \$24 million.

MacKay said a combined audience of between 70,000 to 80,000 took in the shows.

HRM mulling two tax increases to solve shortfall

BUDGET Municipal staff are considering two different forms of tax increases to help make up HRM's \$30.4-million budget shortfall.

On Tuesday, Halifax regional council directed staff to balance the 2010-11 budget through three different methods — a \$6-million general tax increase, \$14 million in departmental budget cuts

and an increase on transit rate fees accounting for \$10 million.

According to Paul Fleming, HRM's manager of budget and financial analysis, the transit rate fees are essentially a form of property tax. In order to pay for expanded transit services, council separated the cost of transit from the tax rate and established it as an

area rate.

There are two categories for this — a regional rate that all citizens pay, and a local rate those within one kilometre of a bus route pay.

At Tuesday's council meeting, staff presented figures under the assumption \$10 million in transit rate increases and \$10 million in tax increases would

be used to balance the books.

Under this formula, homeowners who pay the local rate would have seen a 5.5 per cent increase in taxes, or about \$83 per year. The regional rate would increase by 3.7 per cent, or about \$65.

Under the new division council suggested, homeowners can expect to pay

slightly less, Fleming noted.

Fleming also said he understands increased taxes may be unpalatable for citizens, but HRM has reached a point where some tax increase is required to maintain the service standards people come to expect.

ALEX BOUTILIER/
FOR METRO HALIFAX

Vaccinated kids don't need another H1N1 shot: Province

SWINE FLU The province is advising parents whose children have had their H1N1 vaccine shots that they don't need to get another for this current flu season.

Children aged six months to nine years fall under this bracket, according to recommendations from the National Pandemic Vaccine Working group.

Children can still receive the vaccine if requested, but only a single half-dose is required.

The province said yesterday since the new year, there have only been two lab-confirmed cases of the virus in Nova Scotia.

METRO HALIFAX

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

VIDEO N.B. and Quebec pull plug on power deal, with N.B. premier saying the Quebec utility sought changes that no longer made it worthwhile, at metronews.ca/canada



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4 local

The province's sportfishing season opens in most areas of Nova Scotia on April 1. More than 100,000 anglers take to the province's rivers and lakes each year. Licence fees, taxes included, are \$25.85 for the season. **METRO HALIFAX**

HRM not dealing well with homelessness, says report

Spokesman says area lacking affordable housing options

ALEX BOUTILIER
for Metro Halifax



Over 1,700 people stayed in homeless shelters in HRM last year, according to the 2010 Halifax Report Card on Homelessness.

The report released yesterday by Community Action on Homelessness also states of those 1,718 people, the average length of a stay in shelters was 19 days. 158 were families — mothers and children, as HRM does not have a shelter for fathers and children.

It also had some disparaging remarks for HRM's efforts to combat homelessness.

The report gave HRM a score of C- on housing issues, signifying no progress or some loss. It cites rising average costs for a bachelor apartment — up 6.5 per cent to \$638.00 — as the principle factor behind the grade.

On income issues the report gave HRM a grade of C, or no progress, citing negligible increases in income assistance and minimum wage.

Increased rent without comparable increases in wages presents difficulties in finding and maintaining adequate housing, the report notes.

Community Action on Homelessness announced



PHOTO BY METRO HALIFAX

A homeless man asks for change on Barrington Street in this file photo from last year. Over 1,700 homeless people stayed in one of HRM's six homeless shelters in 2009.

their findings at a press conference yesterday, with a roundtable discussion featuring leading members of HRM's anti-poverty organizations.

According to spokesman John Hartling, the numbers show that there are not sufficient affordable housing options in the municipality.

One member of the roundtable, Jann Griffin, knows all too well the effect housing and support can

have for the homeless. Griffin moved from Saint John, N.B., to Halifax in hopes of escaping problems with drugs, but quickly fell back into the cycle.

Griffin said she was admitted to detox 38 times, and was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. She finally turned to Adsum House, an organization which provides shelter and support for women and children, for help.

"Alone, I had no family,

no friends," she said. "Adsum House took me under their wing, assured me I wasn't going to die."

As of yesterday, Griffin was six years clean and sober, living in Adsum Court. She told the crowd she owes her life to the support she received.

"Although, after six years, it's time for me to maybe move on now, to give someone else the chance that I had," she said.

Vacant house fire under investigation by police

RCMP Police are investigating a suspicious fire in North Preston.

Halifax RCMP say fire fighters responded to a blaze on Beals Crescent on Tuesday around 10:40 p.m.

Police say the house was vacant, and the doors and windows were boarded up with no electricity inside. The lower back door also appeared to be forced open, with fire investigators later

deeming the blaze as suspicious.

RCMP spokesman Cpl. Joe Taplin said yesterday they don't believe the fire was connected to a shooting in the community on Monday night.

Around 11 p.m. on Monday, a home on Cain Street in North Preston was hit by bullets. There have been no arrests in the incident.

METRO HALIFAX

911 call leads to drug charges

ARREST A 48-year-old Gaetzbrook man is facing several charges after police seized drugs from a home on Haven Lane.

Halifax RCMP say they responded to a 911 call at the residence at 3:10 p.m. on Tuesday, with the man telling officers the call must have resulted from phone problems.

Police say an officer on scene could then smell and later saw marijuana inside.

The man was then arrested and a subsequent search by police resulted in 34 marijuana plants being seized, along with 50 grams of marijuana, 50 Oxycontin pills, two hand-held digital scales and a Taser.

METRO HALIFAX

Three arrested after gunpoint robberies

PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca



CHARGES Two youth are facing charges after Halifax Regional Police arrested three males in relation to two robberies during the overnight hours in Dartmouth.

Police say the first incident took place at about 11:45 p.m. Tuesday as three men, one armed with a sawed-off shotgun, walked into the Petro Canada at 610 Portland St. and demanded cash from the clerk. They left the store with cigarettes and an undisclosed amount of money.

Police say about 50 minutes later, three men — all wearing masks — entered Roberts Pizza at 364 Windmill Rd., with one armed with a sawed-off shotgun.

They left with nothing, police say, and drove off in a gold coloured vehicle.

Police say about 20 minutes later, a gold Sebring was spotted by officers on Pleasant Street near Highway 111. Police say they tried to stop the vehicle, but the driver refused and drove to Novawood Court where all three occupants fled.

Police arrested a 15-year-old at the scene. K-9 officers then searched and arrested a 17-year-old male and 19-year-old man a short time later. Police say a shotgun was also recovered in a nearby field.

The 15-year-old and 17-year-old have each been charged with robbery, wearing a disguise, fleeing police and firearm offences. The 19-year-old was released, with the investigation on-going.

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The full playbill for the 2010-11 Neptune Theatre season will be launched today inside Neptune's Fountain Hall starting at noon. Neptune Theatre artistic director George Pothitis said in a release next season's plays would include award-winning dramas, comedies and musicals. The event is open to the public. **METRO HALIFAX**

Opposition to tax hikes mounting

Increases would be hard for NDP to justify after spending scandal: Pollster

Nova Scotia's NDP government heads into the reopening of the legislature today amid warnings from businesses and local governments that tax hikes would damage the province's economy.

Since winning office last summer, Premier Darrell Dexter has emphasized the threat the province's \$13-billion debt poses.

But observers say Dexter will face a backlash from the small business sector if he solves the problem mainly through tax increases.

"I think people are awakened to the concern about taxes because we're looking at higher taxes at both municipal and provincial government levels," said Don Mills, a pollster who heads Halifax-based Corporate Research Associates.

"Higher taxes now means you have to give up something else in your life."

Selling tax hikes has been made much more difficult by public fury over a recent provincial auditor general's



Premier Darrell Dexter looks through the throne speech in this file photo from September. The Nova Scotia legislature will reopen today.

report outlining misuse of legislative constituency allowances between 2006 and 2009, said Mills.

"The spending scandal has taken a lot of moral authority that the NDP were elected with," he said. "For them to come and try to justify additional tax increases will be a tall order."

The purchases by members of the legislature ranged from big-screen televisions to digital cameras, along with poorly documented payments to constituency staff.

Scott Mosher, president of a small landscaping business in Halifax, said he can't stomach a tax increase when he sees waste in government.

"They need to cut their spending. That's what I'd like to see the government

do more of," he said. "It's in the minds of the common people. When my employees are talking about government spending, that's news. The common guy on the street is talking about the MLA spending scandal."

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities issued a statement yesterday opposing a rise in the sales tax as a method to combat the \$525-million deficit.

"Nova Scotians have spoken loud and clear on their opposition to an HST increase," said Cape Breton Coun. Clarence Prince, the president of the organization.

"I think people are awakened to the concern about taxes because we're looking at higher taxes at both municipal and provincial government levels."

Don Mills, pollster

do more of," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Group presents ideas to improve post-secondary education

STUDENTS The Canadian Federation of Students released a set of pre-budget recommendations on how to improve post-secondary education in Nova Scotia yesterday.

The recommendations, prepared by CFSNS with the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers and the Nova Scotia General Employees Union, indicate ways to improve the quality and affordability of education.

Among the ideas are a hike in per-student funding up to the national average, reduction in tuition fees and the expansion of tuition breaks currently given to Nova Scotian-born students to all students.

According to CFSNS spokesman Jake Byrne, if the provincial government wants to stand by its claim that Nova Scotia is the "university capital of Canada," changes have to be made.

"We need to make sure we have an educated workforce that can afford to live in the province," he said.

ALEX BOULIER/FOR METRO HALIFAX



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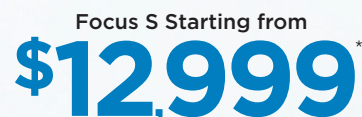


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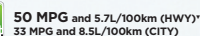


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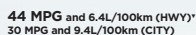
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Two charged with taking \$50,000 from Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

New Brunswick RCMP have laid charges against two people accused of defrauding the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency of nearly \$50,000 over a two-year period. Steve Toner, the former owner of Timber Top Trusses, and his former administrative assistant Manon Caron have been charged with fraud over \$5,000. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Eat your greens, provincial campaign urges

SHELBY MCDONALD
for Metro Halifax

The province wants you to take the advice your parents gave you as a child — eat your fruit and vegetables.

Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection, along with the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Cancer Society launched a new social-marketing campaign yesterday in Halifax, urging people of the province to eat fruit and vegetables daily, whether they are fresh, frozen or canned.

Health Minister Maureen MacDonald said when a national survey was done recently, Nova Scotians fruit and vegetable consumption was quite low.

According to Statistics

Canada, less than one-third of Nova Scotians ages 12 and over consumes the recommended five to 10 servings of vegetables and fruit per day.

"We suffer as a population from a lot of chronic diseases like heart disease, hyper-tension, diabetes, and fruit and vegetables and good nutrition are really the foundation on turning that situation around," MacDonald said.

According to Health Canada, Nova Scotia also has the highest prevalence of income-related household food insecurity in the country.

Health Canada says this means many Nova Scotians are at a disadvantage to achieving recommended vegetable and fruit consumption targets.

Menna MacIsaac, the chief executive officer of



Amy Daigle stocks grapes at Dave's Fruit & Vegetable Market in Dartmouth yesterday. The provincial government launched a campaign yesterday to get people to eat more fruit and vegetables.

the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia, un-

derstands some families find it difficult to buy fruit

and vegetables due to the cost. "It's often the fresh

"It's often the fresh produce that is most expensive."

Menna MacIsaac

produce that is most expensive and particularly in Nova Scotia, we have the second highest prices in produce in the country, so it's a very real barrier to making good choices," she said.

To offset this, the Goodness In Many Ways campaign, which encourages people to buy fruits and vegetables — whether fresh, frozen or canned — was launched yesterday.

"What we are trying to do is make people understand the nutritional value that's available in more accessible options ... and incorporating that in their diet," MacIsaac said.

Developer contract costs for schools manipulated to hide millions: Lapointe

FUNDS The contracts for dozens of P3 schools built in the late 1990s were manipulated to hide the true cost of the buildings, Nova Scotia auditor general Jacques Lapointe said yesterday.

Last month's auditor general's report showed developers were taking contracts from the province and subcontracting them back to the municipality, but keeping \$52 million over 20 years to act

as the middleman.

Deputy Education Minister Rosalind Penfound told the public accounts committee yesterday the \$52-million gap was to cover developer risk, since they own the buildings.

A separate fund for capital risk already exists, but Penfound said it wasn't big enough to cover all costs.

Penfound said when you add the operating contracts and all the other funds together, it's enough

"You don't know if you're getting what you pay for."

Auditor general Jacques Lapointe

to cover developer costs.

Lapointe was more blunt.

"The original cost of the building was manipulated deliberately, as the deputy alluded to, manipulated by the government at the time in order to keep the cost of these buildings off

the books," he said yesterday. "The result is that the annual payments are now distorted and we don't know what it consists of. How much of it is operating cost, how much of it is rent, and how much of it is profit?"

Penfound confirmed

capital costs were worked into the contract. She said there's no way to audit private companies or know their true costs.

Lapointe said the 20-year contracts for 31 P3 schools makes a value for money estimate impossible. "If you don't know what the cost of your operating is, you don't know if you're getting what you pay for," he said. "You have no way to measure."

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

LAND The Nova Scotia government says it has completed its \$75-million land purchase program. The government says it has acquired more than 56,000 hectares of land in the past fiscal year. The province decided to finish the program after reaching several land purchase agreements for about \$7.5 million, with smaller agreements pending. The plan was intended to help the province reach its goal of protecting 12 per cent of Nova Scotia's land mass by 2015. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Credit card scam lands woman in jail

A southern Ontario woman was jailed eight months after posing as her mother and running up a \$20,000 credit card bill. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada

Quebec bill will force women to show faces

Muslim women will need to uncover their faces from now on if they want to deal with the Quebec government, according to landmark legislation tabled yesterday in the province.

In tabling the controversial bill, Quebec has delved into sensitive territory where governments in Canada have largely avoided treading.

The bill says people obtaining — or delivering — services at places like the

"This is a symbol of affirmation and respect."

Premier Jean Charest

health- or auto-insurance boards will need to do so with their faces in plain view.

It says people's face-coverings will not be tolerated if they hinder communication or visual identification.

Premier Jean Charest

told a news conference the province was drawing a line in the sand in defence of two principles: gender equality and secular public institutions.

"This is a symbol of affirmation and respect — first of all, for ourselves, and also for those to whom we open our arms," Charest said.

"This is not about making our home less welcoming, but about stressing the values that unite us."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trauma **A family mourns**



Members of the Hannah family emerge from a funeral home in Belleville, Ont., where services were held yesterday for Tracey Hannah, 46, and daughter Whitney, 14, shot to death March 12. Daughter Shannon, 18, is at left bearing scars from wounds received in the attack. An 18-year-old is in police custody.

Defeat hurts, so Iggy eyes his MPs

POLITICS Disappointed by an embarrassing defeat in the Commons on Tuesday night, Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff is now pondering whether to punish his own MPs.

Some refused to vote with the party on a matter of family planning and abortion.

Ignatieff denies his leadership is in peril.

"I don't think my troops are shooting at me," he said yesterday.

But he did admit Tuesday's vote did not turn out the way he planned.

The Liberals created the problem for themselves by forcing a vote in the Commons on support for family-planning projects in Canadian aid abroad.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

YouTube video of arrest sparks investigation

VIDEO Police in Victoria, B.C., are investigating their own officers after an arrest was posted to YouTube.

Sgt. Grant Hamilton says officers responded to a fight involving eight males early Sunday morning.

He says when police arrived on the scene, they

found one man being kicked in the head and took six others into custody.

But the 56-second YouTube clip appears to show one officer repeatedly kicking a man who has been restrained.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Should Robert Pickton be granted a new trial because of an alleged judicial error?

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Barbados.....9.9¢	Libya.....24.9¢	Israel.....2.9¢
Chile.....2.9¢	Nepal.....7.9¢	Italy.....2.9¢
China.....2.9¢	Oman.....14.9¢	Russia.....2.9¢
Ecuador.....12.9¢	Fiji.....24.9¢	Saudi Arabia...3.9¢
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Lights out: Giant power deal collapses

New Brunswick, Quebec pull the plug after disagreements

The controversial multibillion-dollar sale of NB Power assets to Hydro-Québec is dead.

New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham said the \$4.5-billion agreement collapsed after the Quebec utility sought changes that no longer made it worthwhile.

"It is with so much regret that I am announcing this morning that we are no longer proceeding with discussions to finalize the energy agreement with Hydro-Québec," Graham told the legislature yesterday.

Kaput

• The plan to sell NB Power would have seen Hydro-Québec acquire transmission and distribution systems in addition to power plants for \$4.75 billion.

"Hydro-Québec has asked for changes to the agreement that would have unacceptably

taken away some of the value and increased some of the risks for New Brunswickers."

Graham said he decided to pull the plug on the deal after he met with Quebec Premier Jean Charest late Tuesday.

He said Hydro-Québec found there were more risks than it was willing to accept.

Charest said his province decided to pull out of the deal after finding unanticipated costs.

"We reached the conclusion the sale price no longer corresponded with the assets we were buying," Charest said.

"We didn't approach New Brunswick. New



New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham speaks to reporters in Fredericton yesterday, after the plug was pulled on the controversial sale of NB Power assets to Hydro-Québec.

"New Brunswickers stood up by the thousands."

David Alward

Brunswick came to us, and it was done in good faith."

The original plan to sell NB Power, announced last October, would have seen Hydro-Québec acquire transmission and distribution systems in addition to power plants for \$4.75 billion.

At the time, Graham touted the deal as one that would have drastically reduced the province's staggering debt and lower pow-

er rates.

But in January, Graham took transmission and distribution off the table, and said the 90-year-old utility would remain a New Brunswick-owned Crown corporation.

He amended the proposal following a public backlash and even criticism from within his own Liberal caucus.

Opposition Conservative Leader David Alward said the death of the deal marked a great day for democracy.

"New Brunswickers stood up by the thousands," Alward said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Danny Williams calls it a bad deal

REACTION Danny Williams says New Brunswick has dodged a bullet with the collapse of the sale of NB Power assets.

The Newfoundland and Labrador premier said he's pleased the deal has died.

"I think they've walked away from what would have in the long term been a bad deal for them," Williams said.

Williams said: "My advice from day one was be-

"My advice from day one was beware of Hydro-Québec."

Danny Williams

ware of Hydro-Québec.

"Anybody who deals with Hydro-Québec, in my opinion, deals with them at their peril."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wait times still lag: report

Knee replacements face big delays

SURGERY Seven provinces still aren't on target for knee replacements, a study shows.

The report from the Canadian Institute for Health Information indicates there has been success in shortening the wait for radiation treatments for cancer patients.

Eight provinces provide at least 88 per cent of their patients with radiation therapy within the accepted time frame of four weeks, the report said.

On the flip side, the study found that patients in all the provinces wait longer for knee replacements than any other priority procedure.

Only Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia met the benchmark time frames of providing knee surgery for at least 75 per cent of patients within 26 weeks.

Still, these are comparisons that wouldn't have been possible just a few years ago.

Widespread delays in treatment prompted the first ministers to identify the five priority areas and set benchmarks in 2004.

Besides joint replacement and cancer treatment, they focused on cardiac care, cataract surgery and diagnostic imaging.

"In 2004 many provinces couldn't even measure these things, so they've come a long way," said Tracy Johnson, a manager of special projects at the institute.

"This particular report has a more complete and more comparable picture of wait times across the priority areas than it's ever had before."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

PRISONERS The federal government is considering blocking prisoners convicted of serious offences from receiving old-age pensions. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty told CBC News that he's looking into taking away federal pension rights from the likes of notorious serial killer Clifford Olson. Olson killed at least 11 children before he was jailed in 1982.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Woman escapes a month after being kidnapped

CRIME A 54-year-old woman who disappeared from a shopping mall last month was allegedly held in a basement before somehow getting out and flagging down a passing motorist yesterday.

The RCMP said they arrested a 62-year-old man about two hours after Donna O'Rielly was found in Moncton, N.B.

The woman's discovery ended weeks of questions and anguish for her family.

O'Rielly was last seen Feb. 26 leaving her job at

H&R Block at Highfield Square Mall in downtown Moncton.

The RCMP said she was taken to hospital for precautionary reasons.

O'Rielly's unexplained disappearance drew intense media coverage and concern from the community.

A Facebook site that was dedicated to the missing woman soon swelled to more than 17,000 members and a church vigil was held two weeks ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sweat Lodge guru turns to web

The self-help guru charged with manslaughter for the deaths of three people in a sweat lodge is taking his motivational messages to the Internet. In a video posted online, James Arthur Ray, left, says he's unable to produce live events but still has a deep desire and passion to help people in any way he can. Ray invites people to join him online at least once a week so he can share tools and techniques, and insight and knowledge to deal with life's challenges.

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A Delaware pediatrician pleaded not guilty yesterday to charges that he molested more than 100 of his patients, many of them repeatedly, and videotaped the assaults. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Privacy concerns for sites again

You have been tagged in 12 photos — even if you're not signed up to the web-site.

European regulators are investigating whether the practice of posting photos, videos and other information about people on sites such as Facebook without their consent is a breach of privacy laws. The Swiss and German probes go to the heart of a debate that has gained momentum in Eu-

rope amid high-profile privacy cases: To what extent are social networking platforms responsible for the content their members upload?

The actions set the stage for a fresh battle between American web giants and European authorities a month after an Italian court held three Google executives criminally responsible for a user-posted video.

Any changes could drastically

alter the way Facebook, YouTube and others operate, shifting the responsibility for privacy from users to the company.

Swiss and German data protection commissioners are demanding that Facebook explain its practice of allowing users to upload email addresses, photographs and other personal details about people who haven't signed up.

"The way it's organized at

the moment, they simply allow anyone who wants to use this service to say they have the consent of their friends or acquaintances," Swiss commissioner Hanspeter Thuer said.

To conform with Switzerland's strict privacy law, Facebook could be required to contact those whose information has been posted online and ask them whether they agree to it, he said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Greece Parade scaled back



Teachers dressed in traditional Greek costume take part in a parade in Athens yesterday. The annual event has been scaled back as part of sweeping government cuts to cope with the country's financial crisis.

Indonesian police halt gay conference

JAKARTA Indonesian police ordered the cancellation yesterday of a conference of Asian gay activists, saying it could prompt violent protests by conservative Muslim groups.

The conference, organized by the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, or ILGA, was due to take place this weekend with participants from 16 countries.

The ban was issued by police in Surabaya, East Java's capital, where the three-day event was to be held, national police spokesman Brig. Gen. Sulistyono Ishak said.

The decision was made after considering public objections by Muslim groups and the Indonesian Ulema Council, an influential board of Muslim clerics, he said.

"There are indications that the event could trigger a social crisis and cause public unrest," Ishak said. "This ban was issued for the sake of public order."

Poedjiati Tan, head of the organizing committee, said more than 150 activists representing 100 organizations in 16 Asian countries planned to attend the conference.

Tan said the committee is trying to appeal the decision with police and religious leaders, arguing that the conference was meant to raise awareness of social issues faced by gays.

"The event will hurt Indonesian Muslims because lesbians and gays are contrary to Islamic teaching."

Abdussomad Bukhori, cleric

"We want to convince Indonesian authorities and religious leaders that we only want to talk about social problems related to this minority group," she said. "We are seeking direction and a way out of our problems in health, education and issues of discrimination."

However, Abdussomad Bukhori, a prominent member of the cleric council, said the board would oppose any kind of gay event.

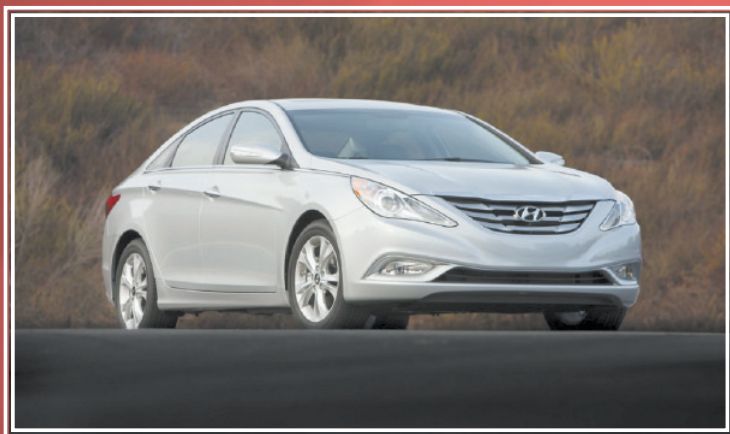
"The event will hurt Indonesian Muslims because lesbians and gays are contrary to Islamic teaching," he said. "We will continue to reject any kind of homosexual event."

Homosexuality is not illegal in Indonesia, but remains a sensitive issue in the socially conservative, Muslim-majority nation. At the same time, most of its society, which follows a moderate form of Islam, is tolerant, with gay and transsexual entertainers often appearing on television shows. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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News in brief

NEW YORK Prosecutors have ramped up their case against a longtime accountant who served as the operations chief for jailed Ponzi king Bernard Madoff. Federal prosecutors in

Manhattan announced that an indictment against Daniel Bonventre was returned yesterday, containing new charges of falsifying records of an investment adviser. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Treatment of Cuban dissidents 'disturbing': Obama

U.S. President Barack Obama is calling on the Cuban government to respect the rights of its people. In a statement yesterday, Obama called the recent jailhouse death of a dissident on a hunger strike and uniformed security agents blocking a march by women demanding the released of jailed loved ones "deeply disturbing". **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Government finds home in drug mansions

Election workers scurry across the airy courtyard of their lavish new headquarters, a three-story building that hardly suffered a crack in Haiti's earthquake.

The building looks like a government office. But until recently, it was an upscale shopping centre, the \$1.8 million property of a major cocaine trafficker.

Co-operation between Haitian authorities and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration before the Jan. 12 earthquake brought an unexpected yield to a country whose infrastructure is in ruins: confiscated properties that are spacious, opulent — and free.

The drug lords built them to last. While the quake destroyed all the government ministries' headquarters, only four of the 30 seized buildings suffered damage. "It's bizarre that the buildings built by

Elections first

• While the president and government ministries still operate out of a police station and tents, the elections council was relocated first because of the priority given to preparing for the election later this year.

drug traffickers survived and the government buildings collapsed," said Max Boutin, who administers the properties for a Haitian anti-drug trafficking commission.

The Haitian government began confiscating traffickers' real estate a little more than a year ago with help from U.S. investigators. The DEA says the seizures are worth roughly \$25 million so far. The list of stores and mansions includes some of the most desirable properties in areas just outside the downtown. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

California Growers may get day in the sun



Marijuana grown for medical purposes is shown inside a greenhouse at a farm in Potter Valley, Calif. In the mountain forests along California's North Coast, refugees from San Francisco's Summer of Love have spent four decades hiding from the law as they tended some of the world's most fabled marijuana gardens. Several statewide efforts to legalize marijuana could finally let those growers come out into the light.

ERIC ROBERTS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Australian cops investigated over 'sickening' email

MELBOURNE Up to 100 police officers in the Australian state of Victoria are under investigation over a racist email message that has been circulated in the internal police system.

Chief Commissioner Simon Overland told The Age newspaper that anyone who introduced the material into the system would be fired.

The investigation centres on a graphic image of a non-Caucasian man being tortured, the newspaper reported.

Experts tracking the email have found that several police had added "sickening" racist comments to the email.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three killed in Norway runaway train crash

OSLO Sixteen runaway train cars careened downhill for five kilometres and crashed into a port building yesterday, killing three workers, before two of the cars plunged into the water.

The empty train cars broke loose from a cargo train and slammed into

the port terminal on the edge of the Oslo fjord, destroying the building, officials said.

The victims had been working in or around the terminal, a police spokeswoman said. A worker initially reported missing was later confirmed as one of three casualties; three peo-

ple were reported injured.

It was not immediately clear how the cars became detached. Authorities said they started rolling from a rail yard in eastern Oslo and accelerated as they moved toward the industrial port, about five kilometres down the tracks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

HEALTH Unrest over sweeping federal health-care legislation has turned to vandalism and threats, with bricks hurled through Democrats' windows, a propane line cut at the home of a congressman's brother and menacing phone messages left for lawmakers who supported the bill.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mobius Environmental Awards Call for Nominations



Do you know, or are you, an innovative individual or organization that has made Nova Scotia a leader in waste reduction? RRFB Nova Scotia is now accepting nominations in the following Mobius Environmental Award categories:

- **School of the Year**
- **Business of the Year**
- **Institution of the Year**
- **ENVIRO-DEPOT™ of the Year**
- **Innovation in Waste Reduction**
- **Best Community-Based Project**
- **Waste Reduction Education Program**
- **Individual Excellence in Waste Reduction**
- **Region, Municipality or Authority of the Year**

The Mobius Environmental Awards luncheon will be held June 2, 2010 at Pier 21 in Halifax. **Let's recognize those who help Nova Scotia be a global leader in waste diversion!**

For details on nomination procedures or to download the nomination form, please visit www.rrfb.com/mobius or call 1-877-313-RRFB (7732).



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Comment

Decoding online dating profiles

Relating

Sofi Papamarko

metronews.ca/papamarko

In the era of social media, online dating has shed its shameful image. "We met over the Internet" is a phrase no longer greeted with pity or whispered warnings. Lavalife is the new community singles dance. Christian Mingle is the new church picnic. J-date is the new pushy Bubbe.

Of course, it's wise to proceed with caution. You can discover a lot about someone from their dating profile — more than you might think. Here's how to read between their lines:

He writes: I like hiking, cycling, tennis, hockey, etc. I'm looking for someone who can keep up with my active lifestyle.

Translation: No fatties.

He writes: I really respect strong women and would love to find a successful, independent female to share my life.

Translation: I'm unemployed and you're picking up the tab. Forever.

She writes: I've had my

heart broken many times in the past, so I'm looking for something real. Players need not apply!!!!!!

Translation: Historically, I have a habit of selecting wildly inappropriate romantic

partners and will continue to do so because that is how I roll. If

you are a kind, sincere gentleman who cares about me and wishes to settle down, I will wonder what is wrong with you, complain to my friends that you are too needy and stop returning your calls.

He writes: I prefer the simpler things in life.

Translation: I live in a base-

ment, sleep on my ex-girlfriend's discarded futon and opt for meals that can be prepared using only a can opener and a microwave.

She writes: Well, what can I say? I'm a nice person. I like shopping and chilling with my friends. If u like what u see, let's meet for a coffee and take it from there.

Translation: I have nothing relevant or interesting to say on any subject and am passionate about nothing. Hope you like awkward silence!

He writes: I'm very much in touch with my feminine side.

Translation: I will try on your underwear when you are at work.

They write: My friends think I'm funny.

Translation: I've watched that YouTube video of the monkey picking his bum, smelling his finger and falling off the tree like a million times!

She writes: I wuvv my kitty-cat! LOL! Her name is Tiddlywinks and she is mummy's precious widdle baby angel, yes she is!

Translation: Run! Good luck out there.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.

Views

Girls and their guitars an inspiring sight

FourthWave

Canice Leung

metronews.ca/fourthwave

When I started going to punk shows as a teen, there were just a handful of girls in a male-dominated scene. It was apparent there were two options for girls who wanted to fit in: Exploit your sexuality, or be one of the boys.

When I saw The Runaways this past week, it was déjà vu. The new movie, about the late-1970s all-girl rock band, is advertised as a biopic about "the first girls to rock," and I'd say that's a

pretty good assessment.

The two protagonists, guitarist Joan Jett and singer Cherie Currie, aim for those two tactics: Sex or toughness.

Currie, known for her corsets and fishnets, chose the former; Jett, in black and leather, chose the latter (and so did I).

The idea of an all-girl band was received poorly: Jett's guitar teacher tries to teach her On Top Of Old Smokey, and declares that girls play acoustic — not electric — guitars. At early shows, they were pelted with garbage; one detractor sneered that "guys don't like girls who are tough. Guys like girls who

are soft and flirty."

Yes, once upon a time, people were THAT offended by female musicians — thankfully, that contempt doesn't exist anymore, but the idea of female rebellion still does.

Consider Currie was just 15 years old when she joined the band. On stage, she strutted with a microphone cord snaked around her fishnetted leg. Shocking! But rock 'n' roll is built on sexuality, and so much of growing up is about taking control of one's own body.

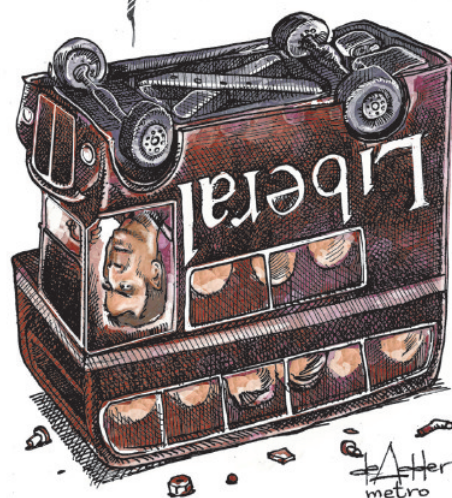
In one scene, the band's manager howled: "Rock is a blood sport — it's for men. This isn't about

women's lib, it's about women's libido." In recent interviews, Jett said her "parents always told me I could do anything I wanted." Of her image, she said: "I think it's important that you're able to own it. And women owning their sexuality is threatening."

Rock music has a transformative effect — for misfits such as these girls, it's an escape from a life you don't fit into; it connects you with likeminded people, ideas, politics. It was for me, and I'd guess it was for The Runaways, too. All you can do is throw yourself into the rough and tumble and hope you come out the other side.

Canice Leung is a former editor of Ryerson University feminist magazine McClung's, copy editor at Metro, ardent feminist and loudmouth.

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South Korean tycoon returns to Samsung

Lee Kun-hee, South Korea's richest tycoon, has returned as chairman of Samsung Electronics, filling the void left atop the world's second-largest chipmaker after criminal charges of tax evasion led him to resign. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

15

Business

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 US 97.53¢ US 0.89¢	 US \$4.105 US 2.5¢	 US \$80.61 US \$1.30	 11,962.97 81.57

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONWS.CA

Starbucks **Brewing confidence**

Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz addresses the company's annual shareholders meeting yesterday in Seattle. Starbucks Corp. will begin paying a 10-cents-per-share dividend to investors, Schultz said, signalling confidence the firm's ambitious turnaround effort has taken hold. Its board of directors also approved a plan to buy back 15 million shares — in addition to the 6.3 million shares the company still has remaining authorization to buy under a previous effort.

EI rates drop 4th month in a row

EMPLOYMENT Statistics Canada reports 698,800 people received regular Employment Insurance benefits in January, down 47,700 from December.

It was their fourth straight monthly decline as the number of beneficiaries fell in every province, especially Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec.

The agency says there were 239,100 initial and renewal claims received in January, down 20,200 from December.

Claims fell in every province except Newfoundland and Labrador, and the largest decline was in Ontario, where claims dropped by 8,200.

StatsCan says more large centres than in previous months showed a lower number of EI beneficiaries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Higher interest rates could be on the way, says Carney

WARNING Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney gave his most explicit warning to date that higher interest rates are coming, and perhaps sooner and higher than previously thought.

The bank governor has always maintained that his promise to keep interest rates at historic lows was contingent on inflation remaining tame, but yesterday issued a clear alarm that he is worried about prices.

And in a speech before the Ottawa Economic Association, he underlined just how qualified his commitment to keeping the policy rate at 0.25 until at least July has become.

"This commitment is expressly conditional on the outlook for inflation," he stressed.

Carney also noted that core inflation, the measure the bank uses to judge un-

Expectations

- A majority of Canadians expect to see higher mortgage rates over the next year, according to RBC's annual homeownership survey. The bank says 64 per cent of Canadians expect high rates, with about the same number of mortgage holders concerned about higher rates.

derlying price pressures, has been "slightly firmer" than projected.

Last week's Statistics Canada report that core inflation — which excludes volatile items such as energy — had peeked above the bank's two per cent target to 2.1 in February likely was the last piece of evidence Carney needed to start publicly worrying about inflation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mobile banking growing in Canada

Question becomes do customers need it?

Mobile banking is finally gaining steam in Canada, long after U.S. consumers started paying bills on their BlackBerrys and iPhones, but some analysts wonder whether Canadians will rush to embrace banking apps.

ING Direct is the latest Canadian financial institution to launch a full-featured mobile banking app that allows customers to transfer funds, check account balances and transactions, and search for the nearest ATM on a BlackBerry or iPhone.

Last month, CIBC released an iPhone app that allows money transfers and bill payments. Scotiabank's BlackBerry and iPhone apps only allow users to find their nearest branch or ATM, while RBC doesn't have a banking app but does have an optimized website for banking on mobile phones.

The Canadian market for mobile banking is still small but it will grow and

40%

In a recent Forrester Research survey of nearly 6,000 Canadians, about 40 per cent said they "don't see the point" of being able to bank on the go.

it makes sense for banks to go after the early adopters, said IDC Canada analyst Robert Burbach, who predicts the other banks will release their own apps in the next 12 months or so.

"It's a good group, BlackBerry and iPhone users," he said. "They tend to be younger and very tech savvy and probably are future high-income earners or they presently are. Smartphone adoption has definitely been more concentrated among high-income learners, so that's

who they're targeting."

Burbach expects the public will embrace mobile banking much more quickly than the time it took them to get used to online banking, and mobile apps could even replace online banking for some users.

"What we've been hearing from the States is the experience is actually a lot more intuitive than online banking and in some ways a lot simpler," he said.

"This is not just online banking ported to the mobile phone, there's a different look and feel about it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Business in brief

REALTORS The Canadian Real Estate Association says it has not received any offers from the Competition Bureau to settle allegations of anti-competitive behaviour and has no plans to take Canada's federal competition watchdog to court. The bureau rejected

CREA's amendments made to its rules Monday to lift restrictions on realtors' minimum service requirements. It will continue to pursue an application filed in February with the Competition Tribunal, which enforces competition laws.

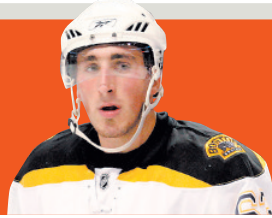
WESTJET New WestJet CEO Gregg Saretsky says he wants to increase the Calgary-based airline's domestic market share to about 50 per cent in the coming years. Saretsky says the discount airline now has about 38 per cent of the Canadian market.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jeremy Duchesne's stint with the Philadelphia Flyers came to an end yesterday when he was reassigned to the American Hockey League's Adirondack Phantoms. The third-year pro served as backup to Brian Boucher for four games but did not play. **METRO HALIFAX**

Sports

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONews.ca



Marchand 73rd in THN ranking

Hammonds Plains native Brad Marchand has been ranked the NHL's 73rd best prospect in The Hockey News's annual Future Watch issue. Marchand, who sits third on the Boston Bruins' team ranking, has appeared in 16 games with the NHL club this season. **METRO HALIFAX**

Screaming Eagles stay alive

QMJHL Luke Adam's hat trick has extended the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles' playoff run by at least another game.

The 19-year-old forward's heroics lifted the Screaming Eagles to a 4-1 win over the Moncton Wildcats last night in Sydney. The Wildcats lead the best-of-seven QMJHL first-round series 3-1, with Game 5 set for Saturday at 7 p.m. in Moncton.

Taylor MacDougall added a single and goalie Olivier Roy made 26 saves.

In the other all-Maritime semifinal last night in Charlottetown, Tomas Jurco scored the overtime winner at 3:55 as the Saint John Sea Dogs earned a 2-1 win over the host P.E.I. Rocket. The Sea Dogs lead the series 3-1, with Game 5 set for Friday at 7 p.m. in Saint John.

METRO HALIFAX

Sports in brief

QMJHL Despite nearly a 30 per cent decrease in attendance over the past two QMJHL seasons, the Halifax Mooseheads finished second to the Quebec Remparts in overall crowd size this season. The Mooseheads averaged 5,506 fans per game, more than 2,000 per game fewer than they drew in 2007-08.

METRO HALIFAX

SCOREBOARD

PBL	W	L	PCT	GB
x-Lawton-Fort Sill	15	2	.882	—
x-Puerto Rico	14	3	.824	1.0
Rochester	12	4	.750	2.5
HALIFAX	10	5	.667	4.0
Vermont	9	7	.562	5.5
Manchester	6	13	.316	10.0
Quebec	2	12	.143	11.5
Buffalo	3	14	.176	12.0
Maryland	3	14	.176	12.0

x — clinched playoff spot.

FRIDAY
HALIFAX at Maryland, 9 p.m.
SATURDAY
Lawton-Fort Sill at HALIFAX, 7 p.m.

Titans, McCains set to vie for Atlantic crown

HOCKEY The host Halifax Titans and Nova Scotia champion Cole Harbour McCains will vie for the Atlantic major midget hockey title starting today at St. Margaret's Centre.

The Titans won the Nova Scotia regular-season title with a 28-5-2 record but lost in the provincial semifinals.

The McCains have won three straight provincial banners and won the Atlantic crown in 2008.

Action starts today at 1 p.m. with Cole Harbour facing the Charlottetown Islanders. The Titans play the Islanders at 8 p.m. The gold-medal game is Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

METRO HALIFAX

Searching for atonement

Red-hot Huskies look to capture elusive University Cup

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Saint Mary's Huskies are about to take their best shot at redemption.

The Huskies are back in Thunder Bay, Ont., for their second straight University Cup and are looking to atone for last year's meltdown that cost them a golden opportunity to claim their first Canadian Interuniversity Sport men's hockey title.

A spot in last year's final was all but a sure thing — the Huskies could have lost by as many as two goals to the Western Ontario Mustangs in the final round-robin game and still advanced — but collapsed after being tied 2-2 in the third period in a stunning 7-2 loss.

"We left last year with a sour taste in our mouths," said Huskies fifth-year defenceman Chris Morrison. "We really want to redeem ourselves this year. We've got our intensity level up and we're going in to win instead of just going in to play."

The Huskies are playing



Helping the Huskies to win the Atlantic banner, Colby Pridham scored 10 goals and was named playoff MVP.

their best hockey of the season, having won 12 of their past 13 games and storming to a 3-0 sweep of the St. Francis Xavier X-Men to win their second straight Atlantic banner.

The offence is firing — putting the puck in the net 38 times in nine playoff games, buoyed by a 10-goal effort from playoff

MVP Colby Pridham — and rookie goaltender Neil Conway helped them maintain a stingy 1.67 goals-against average in the post-season.

Huskies head coach Trevor Stienburg said last year's debacle "hasn't even been brought up" this week, despite very little turnover from last

"We left last year with a sour taste in our mouths. We really want to redeem ourselves this year."

Chris Morrison, Huskies D-man

year's roster.

"We're not dwelling on anything," he said.

"We're going up there to play Saint Mary's University hockey: High energy, four lines, play in the other team's zone, and get as many pucks to the net as we can."

The third-seeded Huskies open the tournament tomorrow at 3 p.m. against either McGill or Manitoba. They play Saturday at the same time. The championship game is Sunday at 8 p.m.

Conway was named to the CIS all-rookie team while defenceman Andrew Hotham was a second-team all-Canadian.

Bedford's Luke Gallant, a defenceman with the New Brunswick Varsity Reds, was a second-team all-Canadian.

Questionable officiating causing gripes in PBL

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

BASKETBALL All around the Premier Basketball League, you'll hear a familiar refrain about officiating from the road team after a loss.

"It's minor-league basketball, it's minor-league officials," said Lawton-Fort Sill Cavalry head coach Michael-Ray Richardson after a loss to the Halifax Rainmen on Jan. 22.

"We just didn't think the game was getting called fair," said Courtney Sims after his Puerto Rico Capitanes lost in Halifax last Sunday. "We were getting called for tick-tack fouls."

"It was real terrible,

man," said Rainmen forward John Strickland after a loss to the Rochester RazorSharks on March 13. "It wasn't even a secret. It was just obvious what was going on in that game."

Talk around the league is, griping about the zebras might be more than just sour grapes.

Officiating has become a major beef for teams around the PBL, and it appears owners are taking their concerns to league officials.

"It needs to be addressed — there has been some brutal officiating in our league this year and I think the league knows we have to get better," said Rainmen owner Andre Levingston. "We don't want referees dictating the outcomes of basketball games.

All-star festivities

• The host Halifax Rainmen will have a league-high four representatives at the PBL all-star game at the Metro Centre May 2. Guards Tony Bennett and Gary Ervin, small forward Desmond Ferguson and power forward Eric Crookshank were named to Team East yesterday. Rainmen head coach Les Berry



Eric Crookshank

also got the nod as Team East's head coach. A three-point contest will be held on Saturday, May 1, at 6:30 p.m. followed by a slam-dunk contest at 7:15 p.m. The all-star game is Sunday, May 2, at 3 p.m. The Puerto Rico Capitanes will have no representatives at the all-star game due to travel costs.

That's happened a few times this year and it's not fair."

Representatives from the Premier Basketball League have not returned phone messages left by Metro throughout the week with requests to comment on the matter.

But Levingston — also

the PBL's director of Canadian business development — said he wants the issue to be seriously examined at season's end. He wants to ensure officiating is "fair across the board" by "holding referees accountable."

"We definitely have to address it," he said.

Rogers Fan Appreciation Night

Saturday, March 27th

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Lawton-Fort Sill Cavalry vs. Halifax, 7pm

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Hendrick ranked as NASCAR's most valuable team

Forbes' annual rankings show that Hendrick Motorsports is the most valuable team in NASCAR for the second consecutive year. Forbes' report released yesterday shows NASCAR's top team is worth \$350 million US. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

sports 17

Patrick Chan performs his short program yesterday at the world figure skating championships.

Canada's Chan soars into second place

Relaxed skater excels at world championships

Patrick Chan's wide smile was back, and so was the wonderfully familiar sense of lightness in his skating that had abandoned him so abruptly in Vancouver.

With the weight of the pressure of the Olympics off his shoulders, the Canadian finds himself in the hunt for his second consecutive medal at the world figure skating championships, finishing second in the short program yesterday with the best skate of his season.

"I kind of got into that zone and got into that flow of just enjoying myself and being in the moment and taking each element at a time and taking my time doing each one," Chan said. "I think Vancouver just helps you on all levels of confidence and elements and everything. It was finally good to be at worlds and really enjoy it instead of being nervous about every-

Pairs results

- Canadian teammates Jessica Dube and Bryce Davison finished sixth in the pairs.
- Olympic silver medallists Pang Qing and Tong Jian of China won the gold with 211.39 points, while Germany's Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy, third in Vancouver, won silver with 204.74.

thing that surrounds it.

"I felt great on the warmup and really was relaxed off the ice, and wasn't nervous, and then I went out and it all went by really fast so I think that's a good sign."

The 19-year-old from Toronto scored 87.80 points for his performance to Tango de los Exilodos, more than six points higher than he scored a month ago in

Vancouver, where he bobbed his triple Axel, stumbled on his step sequence and then stepped off the ice at a jam-packed Pacific Coliseum with a look of utter bewilderment. Chan went on to finish fifth in his Olympic debut.

Daisuke Takahashi of Japan, the Olympic bronze medallist, scored 89.30 points to take the lead heading into today's long program in a field that's missing both the Olympic gold and silver medallists.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Woods to speak before Masters

GOLF Tiger Woods will speak before he plays in the Masters.

Woods is scheduled to hold his first press conference in nearly five months at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 5, according to a tentative interview schedule that Augusta National released yesterday.

It will be his first press conference in nearly five months, and his first time facing a room full of reporters since he crashed his SUV into a tree on Nov. 27, setting off shocking revelations of rampant infidelity.

The Masters only recently began conducting a press conference on Monday of tournament week, usually

"I suppose the best thing he could do would be open up and just let you guys shoot at him."

Arnold Palmer on Tiger Woods

a player with only moderate news interest because most of the media isn't there yet.

Woods is the only player scheduled for an interview that day. Given the sensational nature of his downfall, what he says could trump the NCAA basketball championship game held later that night.

"Our focus that Monday will be on crowning the next national champion," NCAA spokesman Erik

Christianson said.

Arnold Palmer, one of the most popular players in golf history, suggested that Woods be more open with reporters.

"It's up to him to do and say whatever he feels he needs to do to redeem the situation, put it in the proper place," Palmer said. "... I suppose the best thing he could do would be open up and just let you guys shoot at him."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gooden charged with multiple offences

LAW Former Major League Baseball star Dwight Gooden has been charged with driving under the influence of drugs and leaving the scene of an accident.

The former pitcher for the New York Mets and New York Yankees had a child in his vehicle at the time of the two-vehicle crash around 9 a.m. Tuesday, Franklin Lakes police Capt. Joseph Seltnerich said.

Police wouldn't say whose child it was, but they said no one was hurt.

Gooden also was charged with child endangerment and motor vehicle violations, authorities said. They wouldn't release details, including the type of drugs.

Gooden, 45, was released on his own recognizance until a municipal court hearing. It was un-

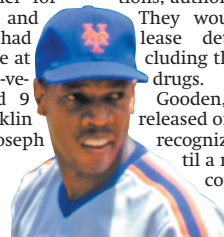
clear whether Gooden, who has waged a well-publicized battle with alcohol and drugs, including cocaine, had an attorney.

The driver of the other car, Ronald Schmidt, of Franklin Lakes, said he recognized Gooden right away.

"I looked at him, and I knew it was Dwight Gooden," Schmidt told WABC-TV in New York. "I think he was surprised I recognized him, (and) he shook my hand."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dwight Gooden



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Caps beat Pens in shootout

Mike Knuble scored the decisive goal in the fourth round of the shootout last night, giving the Washington Capitals a 4-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Buffalo 3 Montreal 2 (SO)
Detroit 4 St. Louis 2
N.Y. Rangers 5 N.Y. Islanders 0
Washington 4 Pittsburgh 3 (SO)
Los Angeles at Colorado
Anaheim at Vancouver

TODAY'S GAMES

Tampa Bay at Boston, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Calgary at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Florida at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

EASTERN CONFERENCE OVERALL STANDINGS

	GP	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	Pt
y-Washington	73	49	14	10	287	206	108
d-Pittsburgh	74	42	25	7	228	212	91
d-Buffalo	72	40	22	10	203	182	90
New Jersey	72	43	25	4	195	172	90
Ottawa	74	39	30	5	198	212	83
Montreal	74	36	30	8	198	203	80
Philadelphia	73	37	31	5	212	201	79
Boston	72	33	27	12	180	181	78

Atlanta	73	32	30	11	218	234	75
N.Y. Rangers	73	32	32	9	191	196	73
Florida	72	30	31	11	190	210	71
Tampa Bay	73	29	32	12	191	227	70
Carolina	73	30	34	9	203	229	69
N.Y. Islanders	73	29	34	10	189	227	68
Toronto	73	26	35	12	195	242	64

y - clinched division title; d - division leaders

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Utah 113 Toronto 87
Atlanta 86 Orlando 84
Boston 113 Denver 99
Charlotte 108 Minnesota 95
Cleveland 105 New Orleans 92
Indiana 99 Washington 82
New Jersey 93 Sacramento 79
Oklahoma City 112 Houston 104
Philadelphia 101 Milwaukee 86
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio
Memphis at Golden State

TODAY'S GAMES

Miami at Chicago, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Dallas at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

For more scores, visit metronews.ca/sports

Jazz rock Raptors

NBA RESULTS

Jazz 113 Raptors 87



Deron Williams led a balanced attack with 18 points, 16 assists and eight rebounds as the Utah Jazz trounced the Toronto Raptors 113-87 last night.

Carlos Boozer added 18 points and 11 rebounds while Mehmet Okur and rookie Wesley Matthews had 16 points apiece for the red-hot Jazz (47-25), who earned their third straight win. Seven Jazz players finished with at least 12 points.

Chris Bosh celebrated his 26th birthday with a 20-point performance for the Raptors (35-35), who lost ground to the Charlotte Bobcats in the race for seventh place in the Eastern Conference. The Bobcats upended the Minnesota Timberwolves 108-95, extending their lead over Toronto to 1½ games.



Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh tries to defend against Utah Jazz forward Carlos Boozer last night. The Jazz won 113-87.

Antoine Wright had 10 of his 15 points in the second quarter for the Raptors,

while Andrea Bargnani added 12 and Jose Calderon 10. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Despite new labour deal, questions remain for MLS

SOCCER Labour strife is resolved, the league's reigning MVP and perhaps best team reside near the glitz of Hollywood, a new \$200-million US stadium is open in the league's largest market, and the 16th franchise is about to debut.

Seems everything is going great for Major League Soccer, right?

Well, not quite.

A potentially crippling strike was averted when the players union and owners agreed on a new five-year labour contract last week-end.

But the league begins 2010 with its biggest name, David Beckham, perhaps on the shelf for the entire year because of injury, its second-biggest, Cuauhtemoc Blanco, returning to Mexico, and just two teams that turned a profit a year ago.

The ability of a league entering its 15th season to avoid a work stoppage was crucial to building on the momentum the MLS has gained in recent years. Sparkling debuts in Seattle and Toronto — the only two profitable teams from 2009

Tonight's action

• The league kicks off tonight when Seattle hosts expansion Philadelphia.

— along with a deeper talent pool and some important international signings have boosted the league's profile.

The old collective bargaining agreement expired Jan. 31 and talks were at a stalemate earlier this month when George H. Cohen, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, was brought in to help make headway. Players wanted free agency, while owners were steadfastly opposed to anything but the single-entity structure for all contracts the league has used since its inception in 1996.

The owners won out when it came to free agency, but players gained increased rights, better minimum salaries and guaranteed contracts for about 60 per cent of the players.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

SOCCER Jason Pominville and Thomas Vanek scored in the shootout after Buffalo rallied with two late third-period goals, giving the Sabres a 3-2 victory over the Montreal Canadiens last night. Ryan Miller made with 26 saves to help the Sabres win their fourth straight game. The Canadiens have lost three straight.

NHL Marian Gaborik had a goal and an assist during a three-goal first period and the New York Rangers began a last-ditch push for an unlikely playoff spot with a 5-0 victory over the New York Islanders last night.

NBA Danny Granger scored 31 points to help the Indiana Pacers beat the Washington Wizards 99-82 last night and extend Washington's losing streak to a franchise record-tying 13 games.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL Syracuse centre Arinze Onuaku will not play tonight against Butler in the West Regional semifinal. Orange coach Jim Boheim said the six-foot-nine centre is doing better but will not be available for the Butler game.

SOCCER Tottenham staged a second-half comeback to reach the FA Cup semifinals with a 3-1 victory over Fulham yesterday and stayed fourth in the Premier League after Manchester City was beaten 2-0 by Everton.

NBA The Denver Nuggets might not have coach George Karl back on the sideline until

the playoffs begin next month. Karl is undergoing treatment for throat and neck cancer and, according to a blog by his girlfriend, he was hospitalized this week with blood clots in his lungs and a leg.

BASEBALL Major League Baseball made a minor change to its post-season schedule yesterday, eliminating an off-day in the middle of the league championship series and adding one before the World Series. The change was the first made at the recommendation of the special committee for on-field matters appointed in December by commissioner Bud Selig.

BASEBALL The Tampa Bay Rays beat the Toronto Blue Jays 5-3 yesterday behind two solo home runs by Jason Bartlett and another solid pitching performance by Jeff Niemann.

SOCCER Samuel Eto'o scored twice — his second goal coming with a spectacular bicycle kick — and Inter Milan beat Livorno 3-0 yesterday to restore a four-point lead in Serie A.

SOCCER Goalkeeper Gunnleifur Gunnleifsson made three saves in the final minutes to give Iceland a 0-0 tie with Mexico in a friendly game last night. Gunnleifsson's final save was on Mexico forward Miguel Sabah's header with seconds left in the third match of Mexico's U.S. exhibition tour.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Loss shifts focus for Canadians

CURLING With a perfect record at the women's world curling championship no longer possible, Canada's Jennifer Jones hit the reset button and turned her attention towards improving her play-off position.

The Winnipeg team suffered its first loss yesterday at the hands of Germany's Andrea Schopp, after winning eight straight games to start the tournament.

Jones almost squeezed out a ninth victory, but fell 8-7 in an extra end to Schopp, who is skipping Germany at the worlds for the 17th time in her career.

Jones, third Cathy Overton-Clapham, second Jill Officer and lead Dawn Askin remained atop the standings at 8-1. Scotland's Eve Muirhead was 7-1 and Erika Brown of the U.S. was 6-2 heading into the evening draw when those two countries were to meet.

Sweden's Cecilia Ostlund was 6-3 and the Germans improved to 5-3 with a game at night against Japan's Moe Meguro (1-7).

Defending champion Wang Bingyu of China kept her playoff hopes alive with an 8-7 win over Norway to sit tied at 4-4 with Russia's Anna Sidorova.

The top four teams in the 12-country field ad-



Canada skip Jennifer Jones reacts after being defeated by Germany yesterday in Swift Current, Sask.

vance to playoffs at the conclusion of the round robin today.

Any ties for fourth will be solved by tiebreaker games, and Jones was assured of at least that after beating Meguro 10-2 earlier in the day. Canada wraps up the round robin against Scotland and Russia today.

"We'll have to come out and win both our games tomorrow and see what happens from there," Jones said. "Obviously we're disappointed. You're going to lose a game here and there likely and we'd rather have it in the round robin."

"Our fate is in our own hands and sometimes we don't even have that, so we've got everything in control I think."

Only two teams have

gone undefeated in the round robin of the women's world championship in its history: Canada's Colleen Jones in 2003 and Sweden's Anette Norberg in 2005. No team has gone unbeaten through the both the preliminary and playoff rounds.

There were few blemishes on Canada's game up until yesterday's loss in front of 2,366 at the Credit Union iPLEX. The first four ends of their opening game against Sweden and the first five ends against China were shaky, but the Canadians recovered in time to win both games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL tackles safety concerns

RULES NFL players should be safer during games thanks to several rules changes passed at the league meetings yesterday. They also might be playing longer in regular-season overtimes.

The NFL passed rules to further protect defenceless players, including ball carriers who lose their helmet during a play. Seven of eight overall rules proposals were adopted, then several owners said they also expect the modified overtime for the playoffs that passed the previous day to be revisited in May to include the regular season.

"It's a better system, so why not have a better system every game?" Philadelphia Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said of expanding the new OT rule that allows a team losing the coin toss and allowing a field goal on the first series to then get a possession.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



NFL abuzz about where Canadian-born safety O.J. Atogwe will play next year

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Starting anew

This week Metro Homes will be focusing on home renovations for the season of spring. With spring time upon us, now is a great time to begin that project you've been thinking about for so long — after the cleaning of course. So, check out the section for some ideas.

Metro Homes

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Cleaning house, the Vileda way

SPRING CLEANING Vileda is celebrating a slew of anniversaries for its products just in time for spring-cleaning. When you buy one of the following items, you get a chance at winning quite an interesting vacation package, read on for details.

This year, the **Vileda Bee Mop** turns 35. Canada's first roller mop is also its No. 1 selling sponge mop, making it a staple of many Canadian households.

The **Vileda Super Twist Mop** turns 30 this year. It was Canada's first non-woven sting mop and is currently the No. 1 selling mop in Canada.

This year, the **Oskar Broom** celebrates its 25th anniversary. The angled broom's bristles are made of recycled plastic bottles making it a popular choice for the environmentally conscious spring cleaner.

Vileda's **Fibro Contact Mop** is now 15 years old. Its trapezoidal shape and cotton-microfibre blend make it great for cleaning and it's machine washable as well.

For more info. on Vileda products and the Anniversary Celebration, visit Vileda.ca.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

It's time for small renos

This year, people are focusing on beautifying projects around the house

JON TATTREE
for Metro Canada

Last year saw home renovations go big to take advantage of the government tax rebate, but this year, people want small-scale projects that will beautify their home, says DIY guru Mag Ruffman.

Ruffman, host of the TV show *Anything I Can Do* and before that *A Repair to Remember*, says she, like many people, spent money repairing her roof and windows in 2009.

"This year, people want to do something a little more frivolous or cosmetically appealing that will make them feel better about their homes. Because honestly, new windows and a roof? There's no romance," says Ruffman, who wrote *Steve Smith/Red Green's biography We're All In This Together*. "People want a project to work on over the weekend that won't cost and arm and a leg."

That could mean building or refinishing the back deck, building outdoor rooms such as a summer kitchen or landscaping. Ruffman says many people are planning another staycation to conserve money, so they want to spend on projects that enhance their home.

Ruffman's blog, *Toolgirl.com*, is full of recent projects like an iPod dock made out of lumber harvested from trees killed by beetles and forest fires and



While roofs and window are out for renos this year, right, outdoor rooms and backyard kitchens are in, says TV host Mag Ruffman.

"People want a project to work on over the weekend that won't cost and arm and a leg" TV host Mag Ruffman

lampshades fashioned from plastic bags.

She points people to *Instructables.com* and *Etsy.com*, where people share tips on building laser-controlled robots and sell crafts. "You can get really good ideas," she says. "People are looking for pretty or fun."

As for the Tool Girl herself, her current favourite home renovation tool is Sugru, an Irish invention

that invites people to "hack things better."

The silicon rubber can be molded into any shape and is heat-resistant and waterproof. Fans use it to prolong the life of household items or to improve them.

"I just can't get enough of it!" Ruffman laughs. She's also nicknamed herself the iron maiden, as she's into micro-forging this year.

"This is the hottest thing. It's like a hot-glue gun, but



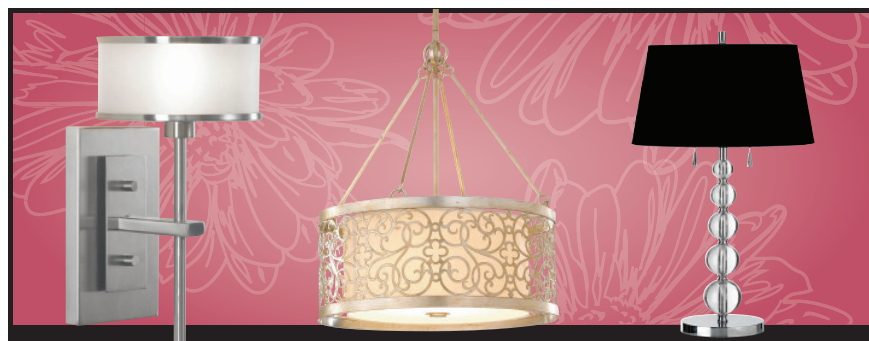
it squirts molten metal," she says. "It's so fun. You just use a propane torch, heat up thin wire and whale on it with a hammer."

Ruffman says the DIY movement is finding balance this year. Once upon a time, homeowners hired professionals for every household job.

After the DIY craze, everyone did everything themselves. Now, homeowners call in the pros for major

jobs like the roof and take on the enjoyable, smaller projects themselves.

"People realize that after a whole day working, they have nothing tangible to show for it. They really want to garden, they really want to build something, because then they can point it out to their friends and say, 'I made that,'" she says. "People are valuing this work that people do with their hands."



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LIVING LIGHTING Home Décor

How about an easy DIY for spring?

Is this the first spring in your new home or the spring to finally undertake some of those fixer-up projects you've been thinking about for so long?

With a little help from The Home Depot, you can tackle these small projects on your own and at a cost your wallet will appreciate!

Here's just a few that should top your list this spring:

Clean the Eavestroughs:

Leaves and debris make a home out of eavestroughs. Cleaning them can be dirty work, but necessary in order to prevent unwanted flooding. With a ladder and some gardening gloves, removing the debris is easy. However, damaged eaves need to be repaired and can be done section by section with replacement pieces and some caulking. If eavestroughs have sustained enough damage over the years and are in need of replacement, consider having a new system installed

"A great weekend project, installing a new deck can be done in just five steps."

with screens to protect the troughs. This will make cleaning them in years to come, much easier!

Refresh the Entrance

Taupes, greys and greens are hot colours for outdoor window treatments and doors this spring. With a simple coat of paint, new door hardware (handle and lock) and outdoor light, your home entrance can have some high-impact curb appeal. The time commitment is small — about half a day. Take the paint refresh even further by adding a new splash of colour to your trim and your shutters.

Scrub Down the Exterior

The wear and tear of winter weather can leave windows and siding on your home in need of a good cleaning. Most often, a ladder, cleaner and extendable brush is all you

need to tackle the windows on your home's exterior. Pressure washing can remove the dirt and grime on vinyl or metal siding — and is also the first step if a new paint job is also in order this spring!

Install a Small Deck

A great weekend project, installing a new deck can be done in just five steps. And with the new online deck planner from The Home Depot, it is a project even the new DIYer can tackle. Already have a deck? Make sure to refresh it, along with any fencing you may have, with a new coat of stain to keep it looking its best all season long.

For more information on small DIY projects, please visit The Home Depot store in your community or homedepot.ca.

NEWS CANADA



Taupes, greys and greens are hot colours for outdoor window treatments and doors this spring.



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Reluctant to renovate?

Have you been avoiding your basement lately because you don't like the way it looks and feels?

If budget and time restraints are the only things stopping you from renovating, think again. Renovating your basement can be easy, fast and cost-efficient. It can also produce short- and long-term benefits, such as saving on energy bills and increasing the overall comfort and resale value of your home.

"A simple project like upgrading your basement insulation will help improve the energy efficiency of your home, increase its overall comfort and create extra living space for you and your family," says

David Flood, insulation expert at Owens Corning.

Most of the heat loss in basements is typically caused by under-insulated walls. Upgrading wall insulation in your basement can help increase the energy efficiency in your home and help you save on your heating and cooling bills.

Simply install a layer of 2" INSULPINK insulation panels and a layer of R-14 PINK FIBERGLAS insulation batts to produce a value of R-24. Making sure your basement is properly insulated can help reduce your energy consumption yearly.

In addition, PINK FIBERGLAS insulation products are made from over 70 per

cent recycled content, which will help turn waste glass into useable products.

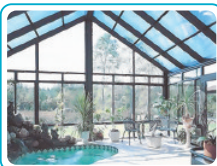
If the winter season has left you with a tighter wallet, government grants and incentives make a basement renovation more affordable. The ecoENERGY Retrofit — Homes program is offering a grant of up to \$5000 from the Government of Canada for energy efficiency renovations which have not yet started.

Some energy utilities and provincial governments offer additional funding. More information on ecoENERGY grants and incentives can be found online at

ecoaction.gc.ca/homes.

NEWS CANADA

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A man with short grey hair, wearing a light blue shirt, a striped tie, and dark trousers, is sitting on a bright orange sofa. He is smiling at the camera. The sofa has two patterned throw pillows. In the foreground, there is a glass coffee table with a colorful floral patterned cloth draped over it. To the left, a lamp with a white shade sits on a side table. In the background, there is a window with red shutters and a small shelf. To the right, a black leather armchair is partially visible.

March says the La-Z-Boy line has changed dramatically in the last five years and it will continue to grow over the next five years.

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How not to get bogged down when cleaning up

HomeScape

Sylvia Putz



metronews.ca/homescape

When spring is in the air, I get the urge to turn over a new leaf. Along with the annual rebirth of nature, I plan to renew my house, office, files and affairs. That means spring-cleaned, thinned out and organized.

Sounds simple?

Well, it's not. I've made this courageous pledge before, only to get bogged down in my stuff and my family's stuff, and what I should do with it.

Here's some advice to make your spring-cleaning and organizing more effective:

- Decide how much cleaning and organizing you need.
- Schedule the work. You may work best by dividing work incrementally or doing it in a big chunk, but build it into your schedule.

- To avoid getting overwhelmed, do obvious areas first (surfaces and the floor throughout the home), and do not get bogged down in too much detail work too early.

- Tackle drawers full of junk or bottomless files later, room by room.

- Remember that now is not the time to finish that unfinished project.

- When you work through things, create piles of items that need to be put away in that room, and then put them away.

- Be ruthless when you decide what to keep and not to keep. Stick to items that you need and use. Get rid of things that have been sitting around gathering dust.

When cleaning, do not get waylaid by old photos or poems you wrote in high school.

- Art, knick-knacks or mementoes should only be kept to the few that you find meaningful or beautiful.

- All things in your home should have a place. For easy storing and retrieval, remember to label boxes, files and shelves.

- If the organizing work you need to do is overwhelming, break the job down and tackle it piece by piece. You may seek help, but set the rules.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

Wall to wall wood for your home?

Hardwood floors have been used in homes around the world for centuries because of their ability to add warmth, elegance and charm to any decor.

They're never out of fashion and can add real value to your home. But until now some rooms such as bathrooms and basements were not considered ideal options for wood floors because of humidity concerns.

That's because wood swells like a sponge when it absorbs moisture and contracts as it dries out, causing dimensional variations in wood materials.

A simple way to prevent dimensional variations in wood is to control air temperature and relative humidity using a humidifier or an air exchanger. However, in some situations, such as in bathrooms and basements, this may be hard to achieve and floorboards will contract and expand. The solution for homeowners looking for wood flooring in these rooms is a product with enhanced dimensional stability that is less susceptible to changing conditions — engineered wood flooring.

According to Michel Collin, Marketing Director at Mercier Wood Flooring, a leading manufacturer of quality wood flooring, engineered flooring is made of plywood with a thin hardwood surface layer glued on top. Each layer of the plywood is glued so that the grain runs perpendicular to the next. This limits the contracting and swelling action as the movement of each layer is counteracted by the opposite



Engineered wood flooring can put hardwood surfaces in places that were not possible before.

“Now homeowners can enjoy the beauty of a real hardwood floor in areas they never thought possible before with solid wood flooring.”

Michel Collin
of Mercier Wood Flooring

site movement of the next layer, thereby enhancing dimensional stability.

This is most evident in Mercier engineered flooring Collin explained, as unlike most engineered flooring, which is composed of three to five layers, Mercier's contains seven cross-banded layers for optimum stability.

“Engineered wood floors are constructed differently from solid wood floors and

offer some advantages,” he added. “Thanks to advancements in manufacturing technology, engineered wood floors can be used in almost any room in the home. This includes installing over dry, concrete slabs and some types of existing flooring. So now homeowners can enjoy the beauty of a real hardwood floor in areas they never thought possible before with solid wood flooring.”

Most engineered wood floors are prefinished at the factory, which eliminates the mess, extra time and fumes associated with applying the finish coats at home.

They're now even easier to install thanks to the latest product innovation in the industry called “LOC” from Mercier. Designers, builders and homeowners are excited by this next generation engineered floor that does not require glue or mechanical fasteners to install. Instead it uses a locking system optimized for its low production costs and superior installation characteristics.

“This product addition offers customers a user-friendly installation product for multi-story developments, basements, and is an ideal choice for the do-it-yourself projects,” Collin added.

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Treads in hardwood flooring for 2010

According to experts in the hardwood flooring industry, this year's hardwood floors will feature the most extensive array of choices of colours, stains and styles than ever before and will be much easier to install thanks to a new LOC installation system.

According to designer Nancy Soccio of Dolce Design in Montreal, "manufacturers now offer so many colours, species, finishes, strip widths, and grades that the possibilities for personalizing your floor are almost endless."

In fact, for the past several years Mercier Wood Flooring, one of North America's leading hardwood flooring manufacturers, has offered its customers the widest variety of choices in the country allowing them to design their floor the way they want, thanks to their exclusive Design+ program.

In this program clients can select from a vast choice of colours, species, finishes, strip widths, and grades to, in effect, customize their flooring choice. The Design+ program features the following species: Red Oak, Hard Maple, Yellow Birch, White Oak, and White Ash in different stains and finishes.

There are also established trends in wood flooring fashion that will continue to gain momentum across the country, according to Soccio, and these are the movements towards darker colours and rare exotic species.

"Consumers are looking for wood flooring options that are out of the ordi-



Darker, more exotic colours are one of the trends in the wood flooring industry this year.

nary to create different looks," explained Michel Collin, Marketing Director of Mercier Wood Flooring.

To answer this need Mercier has launched a new line of exotic products for this year: Asuncion, La Paz, Lima, and Sao Paulo. "People who are looking for a new and rare look will be pleased to discover this collection," Collin said. "This exclusive product line blends stylish shades with the natural hardness of exotic woods."

For the dark wood floor enthusiasts, Collin said Mercier has developed beautiful new rich stains for 2010: Stone Brown and Portobello to go along with Harvest the new stain of choice for lighter options.

But the latest innovation that has designers, builders and homeowners excited is the new Mercier LOC product category. It's an engineered floor that does not require glue or mechanical fasteners to install using a locking system optimized for low

cost of production and superior installation characteristics.

"This product addition presents customers with a user-friendly installation product for multi-story developments, basements, and is an ideal choice for the do-it-yourself market," explained Collin. It is available in 3/4" in Red Oak and Hard Maple. More information on the latest trends in wood flooring is available at mercierflooring.com.

NEWS CANADA

Wood flooring FAQ

Q What's the difference between laminate flooring and engineered wood?

A Laminate flooring may often look like wood but it's not. It's made of melamine-infused paper glued to a wood chip composite. Engineered wood, much like solid hardwood, is real wood. It is a veneer of hardwood in the species of your choice glued on top of (in most cases) three to five thin sheets of crossbanded wood.

It's ideal for kitchens and basements where 3/4" solid wood floors are not recommended because of high moisture level variations. Solid wood

will expand or contract with heat and moisture, whereas engineered wood flooring, because it's made of crossbanded layers of wood, offers more dimensional stability. Mercier's engineered wood flooring offers optimum stability because it contains seven crossbanded layers of wood. Another advantage of engineered wood flooring versus laminate is that engineered wood can be sanded after scratches and dings develop.

Installation is even easier now thanks to our latest product category innovation called LOC. It's an engineered floor that does not

require glue or mechanical fasteners to install. Instead it features a user-friendly locking system that is easy to install and ideal for multi-story developments, basements, and do-it-yourself project

Q What are the advantages of prefinished wood floors over traditional installed wood floors?

A First of all prefinished wood floors are stained and finished at the factory so you don't have to deal with toxic fumes, sanding dust, labour and the long wait required for staining and applying coats of finish at home.

Another advantage is that the finish is applied under controlled conditions, which means that you don't have to worry about dust or other contaminants affecting the finish. Manufacturers can also apply more coats of finish giving you added protection.

In fact, the Mercier Generations finish features ten coats applied at the factory with extreme accuracy. It produces a smooth, uniform finish with unparalleled abrasion resistance and beauty. Lastly you save on the cost because it cuts down on the labour required to install.

NEWS CANADA

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Creative storage solutions for spring cleaning

Any room can become a storage room

DecorMoment

Karl Lohnes

metronews.ca/decomoment

I recently visited a friend's condo who showed me a spare bedroom that she had transformed into a large dressing room. In her magical room she could have shoes, hats, belts, jewellery and all of her clothing on display. Most of us can't afford such luxuries as extra rooms, time or the money to create such an extravagance for our wardrobe. There are however a few places around the house that can offer up organized storage to keep our lives a bit more orderly, especially as we all start cleaning up this spring.

Bedroom:

Adding floor-to-ceiling, built-in cabinetry on each side of your bed will re-

place night tables and offer as much storage as four dressers. Keep the cabinetry open at bed height for easy access to a lamp, alarm clock and books.

Add a second hanging rod in the closet. It will double the hanging space for shirts, pants and jackets.

Install an extra shelf above the top rack in the closet; it's a great place to hide away out of season shoes and accessories.

Kitchen:

Filling a wall with decorative floating shelves can display attractive baskets, ginger jars and containers for storage.

Got a blank wall? Try adding some additional cabinetry for storage. Glass doors on top will make them look lighter and less bulky.

Spare bedroom:

Consider a murphy bed; they are great for tucking out of sight when guests are not around and make the room look larger.

If you are not using the closet for clothing, consider turning it into a home office. A few built-in shelves and a simple electrical installation can give you a work station that can be hidden behind doors.

Attic space in a house or 'bonus den' in condos:

As long as you can add a closet you can have a bedroom! I love the open closet project (pictured).

A built-in desk with shelving above will add vertical storage and make use of those weird, unusable spaces.

Don't know where to start? I suggest calling a closet organizer to come for a visit to your home. They will access the space you've got and create an organized oasis for you and all your stuff. Californiaclosets.com is a good place to start as they have professionals in every major city.

Karl Lohnes is passionate about good decor and wants to help you have a beautiful home; no matter what your budget or style.



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Home improvements on a budget

Instead of making major renovations, transform your home by simply rejuvenating and modernizing. Hilary Farr, designer and host of W Network's *Love It or List It*, offers six simple tips for upgrading your living space without breaking the budget.

Give a favourite old couch a new look. Add some throw pillows in all sorts of colours and textures. Why not give your old chairs a new look too? Reupholster them in a rich-looking new fabric.

You'd be amazed by how great a space can look once it's cleared of knick-knacks, paperwork and random items. Why not plan a thorough spring-cleaning and, while you're at it, be ruthless and toss or give away what's no longer needed. Organize what's left by investing in storage such as decorative baskets and boxes. This will help you show off those special pieces such as coffee tables, bookshelves and cabinets. Then rearrange books, picture frames and

"Fresh paint on the walls can instantly open up and appear to enlarge a room while also creating a dramatic or even subtle change in decor."

vases where they can now be seen and enjoyed.

Fresh paint on the walls can instantly open up and appear to enlarge a room while also creating a dramatic or even subtle change in decor. Be adventurous, but choose colours that will enhance your furniture and floors or carpets. For that finishing touch, paint your old furniture and picture frames a bold new colour that complements the room.

Baseboards frame the entire space of your home, so keep them looking fresh and bright by vacuuming and cleaning. Keep walls looking their best with Vim Cream, which is specially formulated to remove scuff marks, dirt and stains.

Plastic blinds and paper shades can do the job but

won't make the most of your windows or decor. Use options that will not only do the job but also look gorgeous. Choose roman blinds in a beautiful fabric, wooden plantation shutters or luxurious looking curtains. Any of these affordable options gives long-term value — whether you plan to stay or sell.

If your home is older, try lifting a small piece of carpeting. You might find gorgeous hardwood floors beneath. It will be worth the work to remove any carpet adhesives to be ready to finally sand and finish. Rejuvenate and add a shine to existing hardwood, laminate or linoleum flooring by using Vim Oxy-Gel all-purpose cleaner, which leaves a fresh scent.

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- Are easy to repair. You can remove and reinstate the same pavers with no ugly patches after repairs to the base or underground utilities.

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- Can accommodate lighting fixtures that fit right into the paver pattern. These low voltage systems include wiring and a transformer that plug into a standard 110-volt outdoor receptacle. The lighting defines patios, walkways and driveways at night, increasing safety and adding a bit of mystique to your home.

For driveways and larger areas it is a good idea to hire a professional contractor. These contractors can complete a high-quality job quickly and safely because they have the right equipment and materials. To learn more from the Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute (ICPI), find an ICPI certified installer or to view beautiful paving work visit icpi.org.

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Camp can give kids a lesson in good citizenship

Good citizenship can be learned by experience in a camp environment in which democratic group living is a necessity. **SOURCE: B.C. CAMPING ASSOCIATION**

27

Summer Camps

Camp: A new beginning

Opportunity abounds for kids enrolled in summer programs

RICHARD WOODBURY
for Metro Canada

There are many benefits kids get from going to summer camp. One of those benefits is that they can learn without the pressure of being graded.

"They can just enjoy learning," says David Field, the editor of Our Kids Go To Camp magazine. "It doesn't have to have something attached to it that they have to achieve."

This means kids can progress at their own pace. "We take a child from where they are to anywhere they can go in the specified time we have them and

they feel good about it, as opposed to being graded on it," says Andrea Jaros of SAIT Polytechnic in Calgary. She's responsible for the summer camps at SAIT and is a former teacher herself.

Camps can also offer kids a fresh start, compared to what they're used to at school. "In school, there's certain assumptions or you might get labelled," says Field.

"But when you go to camp, it's a whole new be-

ginning. You start fresh, (it's) a chance to meet all new people, do all new sorts of things, nobody knows anything about you."

Summer camps also help develop life skills, such as conflict resolution and communication skills.

This is especially true in overnight camps. "You have to get along with people that you may be in the same cabin with or people you're spending all day long with," says Field.

"It's a different circum-

stance. You don't go home at night and then get away from them. You have to learn how to work with people. You may not like everybody, but you have to

respect and understand them."

The camps also allow children to build supportive relationships, both with each other and the adults running the camps.

"That's very helpful, especially if the child does not have a lot of positive influences in their lives," says Jaros.

Summer camp helps kids develop life skills

How to determine if a camp is right for your child

Take these factors into consideration

- **Preparedness:** Is your child ready to be away from home? Has he or she been prepared by previous short stays away?
- **Personal needs:** What are your child's special needs — security, discipline, group living experience, independence, group awareness, improving old skills and interests, learning new ones?
- **Physical:** Does your child

need special consideration because of any physical condition?

- **Judgement:** Can your child's needs be met best in a general camp, or in a camp especially designed for children with similar needs?

- **Leadership:** Are the leaders mature, competent to guide children and to supervise assigned activities?

- **Personality:** Are the living groups small enough to give your child a sense of security and belonging — to feel that he or she is an individual, not just lost in the crowd?

- **Facilities:** Do the facilities of the camp make it possible for your child to develop new and desirable skills that are compatible with his or her potentials? **B.C. CAMPING ASSOCIATION**

Sports camps give kids edge

JON TATTRE
for Metro Halifax

Halifax looks set to have a great summer in 2010 and kids can make the most of their time off school with summer camps exploring sports, science and the great outdoors.

If basketball is the sport of choice for your child, kids can learn with the very best players in Halifax as the Halifax Rainmen share skills and lead drills from July 5 to 9 and August 16 to 20. Camps cost \$200 for one child, with the second child getting in for \$150. Register before April 30 to get a 10 per cent discount via 444-RAIN (7246) or coachberry@rainmenbasketball.ca.

Dalhousie and Saint Mary's universities also offer summer sports camps (athletics.dal.ca, smu.ca/athletics/camp).

If your child is more interested in waves, Halifax offers several spots to learn how to sail. At the Armdale Yacht Club (armdaleyachtclub.ns.ca), kids can learn the basics about boats.

The Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron (rmsys.com)

also offers summer sailing lessons.

If your kids are climbing the walls, they can do it for real at several Halifax climbing centres. Many offer multi-day summer camps or set aside regular time for kids to learn how to climb. The climbing walls at Ground Zero (climbgroundzero.ca) and Dalhousie University (athletics.dal.ca) are good places to start.

If science

trumps sports in your house, Mad Science campers can team up with fellow "engineers" to build a bridge, participate in a dinosaur dig, build and launch a model rocket and explore the science behind their favorite sports. Learn more at madscience.org.

In the same vein, the Discovery Centre offers three themed summer camps, including girls-only weeks. Carnival Incredible: The Greatest Show on Earth takes a scientific approach to how carnival games work, how circus troupes train and how they create death-defying illusions. You Are What You Eat looks at food science and Body Dynamix explores the limits of the human body, especially in the context of the recent Olympics and Paralympics. Go to discoverycentre.ns.ca for dates and prices.

HRM Rec offers a huge range of summer camps, including sports, arts, science, martial arts and outdoors adventures. Pick up a copy of the recreation guide at HRM rec centres, libraries, ferry terminals and Sobeys stores or get it online at halifax.ca/rec/SpringSummer-Catalogue.html.



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28 summer camps

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Get creative in summer art camp

Inspire your little Picasso at one of the many programs available in Halifax

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax

From dance to drama to music and the fine arts, Halifax has the perfect summer camp for artistically inclined children.

Halifax Dance offers several summer dance camps including Summer Intensive from July 19 to 23. The full-day classes are designed for serious dancers aged eight to 12 with a curriculum built around the major disciplines. It includes daily workshops with special guests. It's open to students preparing for or currently involved in Halifax Dance's Intensive Training Program or similar programs at other schools.

er schools.

The Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts runs summer schools for dance and music. Dance covers similar territory to the Halifax Dance programs. Music camps are offered in July at three levels: elementary, junior and senior company players.

The conservatory also offers a Summer Musical Theatre Company for students in grades 4 to 12 who are serious about developing and refining their auditioning and performing skills. The week-long work-

shops culminate in a variety show that lets students strut their stuff.

Children can hang out in a fort to learn highland bag-piping and snare drumming with the Halifax Citadel Regimental Association. The beginners course runs in July 5 to 7 and the moderate experience course runs July 12 to 16.

The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia offers a full slate of fine art classes with its Summer School of the Arts. Details on the 2010 camps

Camps include visual, dance and theatrical arts



Encourage your child's artistic expression this summer.

aren't yet available. Students can take week-long sessions or full- and half-day

classes.

For dramatic kids, Neptune Theatre runs summer

camps throughout July and August for children aged four to 18.

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City camp programs offer broad spectrum

RICHARD WOODBURY
for Metro Halifax

The words that come to Ali Hutchings' mind when she describes what last year's participants thought of SuperNOVA's summer camps are to the point: "Loved it," she says.

Hutchings is the director of SuperNOVA, a student-run, not-for-profit organization at Dalhousie University, which offers camps all summer long in three main areas: Science, engineering

and computer science. Depending on the camp, activities might include science experiments or designing and building projects.

The camps cost \$175 on average for the week-long day camps, but financial assistance is available.

"We've got a bursary program and our motto is science for all," says Hutchings. "We don't turn anybody away regardless of financial status, physical or mental challenges or anything like that."

Check out supernova.dal.ca for more information.

For kids between eight and 12 who are interested in entrepreneurship, the Creative Kids Education Centre in Hammonds Plains offers a "Break into Business Camp."

The week-long day camp teaches kids entrepreneurship skills, such as how to budget, market a product and set price points.

For African Nova Scotian students in grades seven and eight, there is a math camp put on by the Black Educators Association (BEA) and Dalhousie University. It's called the BEA/Dalhousie Math Camp and participants take logic and problem solving classes during the mornings. The afternoons consist of activities outside of the classroom, such as hikes, trips to museums and scavenger hunts.

Students live in residence during camp, getting a taste of university life. The camp runs from July 5 to July 10 this year and will take between 30 and 40 students.

The camp has been around since 1991.



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Register online at baysidecamp.org or by calling the camp office (902.868.1237).

www.baysidecamp.org

Hospital gowns revamped

Some good news for hospital patients: a gown that won't let you down. Stylish hospital gowns that snap down the side were unveiled in Britain on Tuesday, intended to replace those shapeless cloth sacks with useless ties that flash open. **THE ASSOCIATES PRESS**

Style



Obama designer closes shop

The signs of Maria Pinto's rise were clear when Michelle Obama entered the world stage wearing her designs, also favoured by Oprah Winfrey. Today the signs on Pinto's Chicago shop say something different: "Closeout" and "Final Sale." Pinto, pictured left, is closing her Chicago boutique with a liquidation sale through Saturday offering discounts of up to 70 per cent on her clothing, some of which is priced at thousands of dollars per piece. The designer blames a poor economy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Celebrity arm candy

Designer's whimsical leather bags are a Hollywood hit

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada



"It always, I think, starts for me with a pretty idea, and then we work backwards, how do we make this practical," confesses handbag designer Rebecca Minkoff in an interview with Metro.

"Sometimes honestly, I'll admit, I'm not the most practical."

We're talking about her first bag, the Morning After, designed at the request of friend Jenna Elfman, and the one that launched Minkoff as a handbag designer of celebrity note. Still the best-seller, and one of an assortment now available at Holt Renfrew, it's actually her most practical, with several tidy pockets, room for sleepover essentials, and a style esthetically appropriate for office and out-of-office hours.

As an example of her design whimsy when she'd first created the Morning After, she points out the shiny D-rings she'd added only as details to the sides just because she liked the shape. "I had stores calling saying 'you shipped it without the shoulder strap,'" she recalls. There was no strap because Minkoff doesn't like the look of one with the bag, but she had to concede. "It became 'if you want this bag to sell, it needs to have a shoulder strap.'"

Minkoff's work adorns the arms of the pretty-and-

"Almost every store is asking for an exclusive, even Saks, as a way of getting people in the door"

Handbag designer Rebecca Minkoff



Rebecca Minkoff Leopard Lovenote Clutch, \$475, above, and Mini Rikki in turquoise, \$585, right below.



Rebecca Minkoff Morning After Bag, \$715



Buy Rebecca Minkoff bags at Holt Renfrew

famous such as Rachel McAdams, Hilary Duff and Sarah Jessica Parker and many, many more. She's had no formal training in bag design; it all began with sewing when she was eight. At 13 she made her bat mitzvah dress, and prom and graduation dresses followed.

Her label debuted with clothing in 2001 and has expanded to include her off-photographed bag collection as well as bracelets and wallets, and an intense schedule of merchandise deliveries that includes several retailer exclusives.

"Almost every store is asking for an exclusive, even Saks, as a way of getting people in the door," she explains. "If you're carried in all these places, the only way to do it is to cater to each store. So now I have exclusives with every store."

Her material of choice is Italian leather for its "magic," but an eye-catching blue — another signature — Ethiopian tie-dyed-by-hand leather has found its way into her summer 2010 collection. So has microfibre, in response to customer requests for something at a lower price point. "I was able to create the look of a faux python that looks real, but it's fabric, and brought the price down almost \$150

to \$200 at retail. I think my customers really appreciated that," she says.

Inspiration comes from a variety of sources: vintage bags, flea markets, and old photos. Several in her current collection sprang from the details in motorcycle jackets, such as metal pyramid studs and bold zippers. "That led me to motorcycles and the bags that people



Designer Rebecca Minkoff, left, with friend and actress Jenna Elfman, who was the inspiration behind Minkoff's popular Morning After Bag (above, left).



Linear Stud Rocker in ivory and black, \$350 each



have on motorcycles, that are attached to them," she says. "There's a whole group that's coming up later that came from that."

Alexander Wang and Balenciaga are the two designers she names when asked

which by-others bags she admires. "I don't wear any of them," she admits. "But I'm always like 'MAN, they did it AGAIN!'"

Style in brief

FASHION WEEK Up-and-coming designer and sweetheart of the Halifax fashion scene, Katrina Tuttle, will be showing for a second season at LG Fashion Week by L'Oréal Paris in Toronto on March 31 at 5 p.m. Launched in 2007, Tuttle's collections are often influenced by nature, and her fall/winter 2010 collection is no exception. Inspiration for the season came after flying in a private airplane with her father, where she found herself in awe of the rock formations,

pools of water and dynamic colours of the forests that can only be seen from an aerial view. Tuttle then translated the scenery and unique viewpoint into her garments' silhouettes, textures, colours and patterns. For Tuttle's fall/winter collection (pictured, right), fashion lovers will see lots of black, gold and grey with pops of green, purple and blue, in charming tailored jackets, chic cocktail dresses and pants made to be worn on the town.

METRO NEWS SERVICE



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Summit Entertainment's strategy to release its much-anticipated New Moon DVD on a Friday night — just as the studio did for the release of Twilight's DVD — is paying off handsomely. The studio reports that the DVD of The Twilight Saga: New Moon sold four million units over the weekend. **EW.COM**

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Moving on



Katherine Heigl has left Grey's Anatomy. "I am done," the actress tells Entertainment Weekly. "Everyone had been working really hard to find an amicable and gracious way of letting go and moving on." **PEOPLE.COM**

Breakthrough for the Biebs

Justin Bieber

Album: My World 2.0

Label: Universal

Rating: ●●●●

IF YOU HAVEN'T felt it already, get ready for a total Justin Bieber onslaught. The Stratford, Ont., native's new disc is the perfect mainstream radio listen — a mix of R&B and pop, with lyrics about teenage love. It's not bad, in that it does what it's supposed to — rope in teenage girls with infectious, but not at all challenging, sounds. The worst parts about this aren't Bieber, it's Ludacris sounding old with a terrible rap



on Baby and Sean Kingston's awkward reggae-tinged additions to Eenie Meenie. Bieber's at his best when he sticks to what he knows — singing straight-up teeny pop.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Goldfrapp

Album: Head First

Label: Mute

Rating: ●●●●

AFTER GOING

FOLK for 2008's pastoral Seventh Tree, Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory have relocated their synths and gone back to their electronic pop roots. But Head First isn't just a re-



Justin Bieber received help from Ludacris and Sean Kingston on My World 2.0, but is at his best when he sticks to straight-up teeny pop.

turn — the duo sounds hungry for the commercial success that abandoned them on their last album. The songs smack of Kylie Minogue were she pro-

duced by ELO's Jeff Lynne, leaving Goldfrapp with one platform heel in the '70s and one jelly in the '80s. The simplicity of the songs though disappoints and ultimately undermines their reputation as shrewd songwriters, leaving Head First as a vain attempt to reclaim their place atop the charts.

Cam Lindsay/for Metro Canada

Barenaked Ladies

Album: All in Good Time

Label: Records/EMI

Rating: ●●●●

ANYBODY

WHO ACTUALLY thought the Barenaked Ladies would be as good a band without Steven Page was simply dreaming. Page was half the sound, half the spirit, half of everything Barenaked. This is not to say



the current four-piece is only half the band that we grew to know and love. The one thing nice about Page's departure is that it has pushed the songwriting talents of Jimmy Creegan (I Saw It) and Kevin Hearn (Another Heartbreak) more to the front. Still they are no match for Page's soaring vocals. In reality, this is now Ed Robertson's band. His opening single You Run Away, written directly at his old friend Page, is the album's strongest track. It's a great track, showing an unfamiliar dark side of Robertson. Unfortunately, nothing else on the CD has the same impact.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Rufus Wainwright

Album: All Days Are Nights: Songs for Lulu

Label: Universal

Rating: ●●●●

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT HAS always mined his personal life for material, so it's natural that he'd deal with his famous mother's cancer and recent death on his latest record. He doesn't cloud his terrible ordeal in his familiar over-the-top pop — instead he delivers 12 gut-wrenching tunes with only a piano and his voice. The final track, Zebulon, is the most explicit song about the turmoil in his life, "my mom's in the hospital, my sister's at the



AlbumReviews

music@metronews.ca

opera, I'm in love, but let's not talk about it," he sings. The record is uncomfortable, haunting, magical and brilliant.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

She&Him

Album: Volume Two

Label: Merge

Rating: ●●●●

THE PAIRING

OF M. Ward and actress Zoëy DeSchanel could have gone so wrong, as so many actor-turned singer releases do, but their 2008 effort, Volume One, was one of the most well received indie albums of the year. Their follow-up is another excellent release, featuring a bubbly mix of Americana, pop and rock. Thieves is a gorgeous alt-country tune, while single In The Sun is just a fun, endearing, upbeat listen with a fantastic singalong chorus. If only all movie stars could be this versatile.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada



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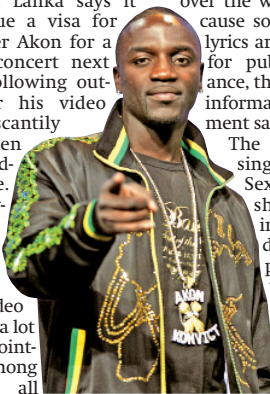
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Sri Lanka bars Akon over Buddha row

PEOPLE Sri Lanka says it won't issue a visa for R&B singer Akon for a planned concert next month, following outrage over his video showing scantily clad women near a Buddha statue.

The government made the decision because the video "triggered a lot of disappointment among Buddhists all over the world" and because some of Akon's lyrics are not suitable for public performance, the government information department said.



The Senegalese singer's video Sexy Chick shows women in bikinis dancing at a pool party with a Buddha statue occasionally visible in the background.

On Monday, protesters hurled stones at the office of a private broadcaster which is the media sponsor for the planned April 24 concert. Four workers were injured in the attack and the building was damaged.

Concert promoter Lasantha Samarasinghe said he will ask the government to reconsider its decision, adding that the concert would boost tourism and help the country's economy. "We are going to appeal and I hope there will be a favourable answer," Samarasinghe said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scream again

Scream 4 is a go. Dimension Films announced the fourth iteration will start production this spring. Kevin Wes Craven is directing, and Neve Campbell, David Arquette and Courteney Cox have all signed on to reprise their roles. **EW.COM**

Hot Tub a pool of tacky delights

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Whether he's bickering with Jon Stewart on The Daily Show or dropping delightful racist one-liners in Harold And Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay, Rob Corddry has become a comedy staple in recent years.

The man with the comically enhanced hairline returns this week with Hot Tub Time Machine, a lovingly stupid comedy about a group of friends who travel back to the '80s in (wait for it) a hot tub.

Not exactly the most conventional concept for a ma-

nor studio release, but one that tickled the comedian when he first read the script.

"I was kind of hooked from title page," Corddry tells Metro. "It said, Hot Tub Time Machine: Based On The Incredible True Story. Definitely my sensibility."

The film gave Corddry the opportunity to take a trip back to the time of legwarmers and a child-friendly Michael Jackson.

The '80s are recreated in all their tacky glory, which was a sight the actor thought he'd never see again.

"It was pretty surreal," recalled Corddry. "There



From left, Craig Robinson, Rob Corddry, John Cusack and Clark Duke find themselves back in the '80s in Hot Tub Time Machine.

were times looking out over a sea of extras dressed in fluorescent clothing where I could almost smell the Love's Baby Soft, a perfume from the '80s that

smelled like baby powder and defined my junior high experience. There was a definite sense memory recall going on."

Of course, Hot Tub Time

Machine doesn't just capture the sights and smells of the '80s, but also the tone of the raunchy R-rated comedies that defined the era. It was a style that Corddry admits was a major influence on the project from the beginning.

"That was definitely always there. Probably even more so before we actually added a story to it," quipped the actor.

"The first version of the script was kind of a free-for-all before Cusack and [director] Steve Pink came in and tamed it."

The film marks the third comedic collaboration for Pink and Cusack who previously co-wrote the screenplays for Grosse Pointe Blank and High Fidelity. Corddry is quick to acknowledge that their laid back working relationship allowed for a lot of freedom on set.

"The script was always in flux. Like the constitution, it was a living document and was constantly being rewritten. They really encouraged improvisation, so it was a very collaborative atmosphere."

Hot Tub Time Machine opens tomorrow

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Did you know Metro Halifax reaches 182,900 readers over the course of 5 days?

America's zaniest medical comedy, *Scrubs*, will take its final breaths at the end of its ninth season, according to its original star Zach Braff. The actor/doctor called the time-of-death at 3:23 on March 23. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Now it's 3-D CatholicTV

BROADCASTING Avatars and Mad Hatters are already performing before American audiences in 3-D, and *Shrek* is coming soon. Now, a United States Catholic television network is throwing priests into the mix.

CatholicTV debuted 3-D programs yesterday in an effort to reach younger people and to make the faith message more vivid. The network posted several 3-D shows on the Internet, released its monthly magazine in 3-D — complete with glasses — and said it will eventually broadcast some programs in 3-D.

CatholicTV's director, the Rev. Robert Reed, said he'd been planning to introduce 3-D well before the success of James Cameron's movie *Avatar* or the 3-D *Alice in Wonderland*. "It's a way for us to show that we believe the message we have is relevant, and we're going to use every possible avenue to bring that message to people," said Reed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

George had a curious story

Mischievous monkey came out of dangerous times

Ever wonder why Curious George is so curious? Or why the monkey hero of the Curious George children's books is so fond of travel, so prone to mischief, yet always narrowly escapes disaster?

A new exhibit at New York's Jewish Museum suggests that curious readers need look no farther than the real-life adventures of the intrepid husband-and-wife team who created the beloved character.

Hans and Margret Rey — he changed the name from Meyersbach — were German Jews living in Paris on the eve of the Nazi invasion. Two days before the Germans marched into Paris, they fled, carrying drawings for their picture books, including one about a mischievous monkey.

While the exhibit touch-

es on the harrowing conditions they endured on their four-month flight in 1940 from France to New York, it's more about the unusually long and fertile artistic collaboration between Hans and Margret.

The exhibition features nearly 80 original drawings and vibrant watercolours for the more than 30 books the couple wrote and illustrated. The most famous, of

course, is *Curious George* — the "good little monkey" captured in the wilds of Africa by a man in a large yellow hat and taken to the city to live in a zoo and later, the man's home.

The idea for George began in an earlier book about a lonely giraffe named Raffy who befriends nine monkeys, the youngest of which became George.

George evolved

• Originally, George was named Fifi. The book's American publisher didn't like that name for a boy monkey so he became George in the U.S. and Zozo in Britain (where it seemed disrespectful for a monkey to have the same name as the king — George VI).



This 1940s image shows an early version of Curious George hanging on a giraffe in the book *Raffy and the 9 Monkeys*.

Butch Cassidy returns to screen

SEQUEL The 1969 movie classic *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* ends with neither of the famous outlaws appearing to survive a 1908 shootout with Bolivian soldiers.

But Butch at least will ride again in a film entitled *Blackthorn* that begins shooting in Bolivia next month.

Justin Bieber's manager charged

ARREST Scott Braun, the manager for Canadian teen pop sensation Justin Bieber, has been charged with reckless endangerment and criminal nuisance. His lawyer says he will plead not guilty.

The arrest stems from a planned appearance near New York in November by the 16-year-old Bieber. When the crowd became unruly, police told Braun to send out a Twitter message cancelling the event.

The prosecutor says it took Braun an hour to send two tweets, but his lawyer says it took seven minutes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
3/25/10	31	7	7	ABC News Center 5	World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)	Grey's Anatomy (N)	Private Pract.		
	7	7	7	ASN The Road to Avonlea		Access H	TMZ (N)	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)	Fringe 'Jacksonville'	Private Pract.		
	11	11	11	CBC Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)	Virginie (SC)	Love, Hate and Propaganda	CBC News: The National	The Hour		
	2	2	2	CBC-F Pyramide (SC)	Union-force	Infoman (SC)	Enquête (HDTV) (SC)	Le Show caché (SC)	Le Téléjournal			
	32	32	32	CBS WBZ News (N)	Evening News	College Basketball NCAA Tournament, Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA	La Série Montréal-Québec	Dieu merci! (HDTV) (SC)	Juste pour rire (SC)	TVA nouvelles		
	69	69	69	CFTM TVA nouvelles	Le Cercle (SC)	90210 (HDTV) (N)	90210 (HDTV) (N)	Bones (HDTV)	The Office (N)	Tucson	News Final (N)	
	6	6	6	CHIF Entertainment	ET Canada	Flashpoint (DVS)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n	Podium TV	Community Matters	Grey's Anatomy (N)	CTV News	
	9	9	9	CJCH The Vampire Diaries (N)								
	10	10	10	ELTV (6) EastLink Television								
	36	36	36	FOX Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV)	Fringe 'Jacksonville'			
	12	12	12	NBC News (N)	NBC News	Access H	Extra (N)	Community (N)	Parks/Recreat	The Office (N)	30 Rock	Marriage Ref
	29	29	29	NW (6) Power & Politics		The Lang & O'Leary Exchange	Connect with Mark Kelley (N)	Connect with Mark Kelley (N)	CBC News: The National	Nature/Things		
	4	4	4	PBS-B PBS NewsHour (N)	Greater Boston	Basic Black	Worldfocus	American Experience	American Masters			
	35	35	35	PBS-D PBS NewsHour (N)	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	A Queen Is Crowned ** (1953, Documentary)					
	68	68	68	TQS Guerre clans	Atomes croch	Big Brother QC	Rire et délire	Péris sur la terre (2008, Suspense)	Charles Shaughnessy			
	23	23	23	96 CNN Business News	Headline	Market Call Tonight	John King, USA (N)	GetConnected	Market Call	Squeeze Play	Business News	
	18	18	18	CNN Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer				Campbell Brown (N)	Larry King Live (N)	Cooper 360		
	54	54	54	GOLF Golf Central	LPGA Golf Tour	Kia Classic, First Round, From Carlsbad, Calif.	PGA Tour Golf	Arnold Palmer Invitational, Final Round				
	52	52	52	RSE Connected W-Prime Time	UFC PrimeTime	UFC PrimeTime	Saturday Night Poker	Air Race Preview				
	55	55	55	SCOR HSR	Covers Experts	College Basketball NCAA Tournament, Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA	NASCAR	NASCAR Hub	Fast Track to Fame (HDTV)	Bullrun (HDTV)	Bullrun (N)	
	45	45	45	SPD Race in 60 (HDTV)		That's Hockey! 30 for 30 (HDTV)	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled! (N)	World Series of Poker	Curling	
	53	53	53	TSN Off the Record	SportsCentre	Stoked (N)	Total Drama	Majority Rules	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	Ned's School
	43	43	43	FAM Han, Montana	Wizards-Place	Stoked (N)	Total Drama	Majority Rules	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	The Matrix
	44	44	44	TOON Jimmy Two	Johnny Test	Backyardigans	Night Gators	Waybuloo	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Babar	Little Bear
	26	26	26	TREE Wonder Pets	3rd and Bird	True Jackson	Malcolm-Mid.	Malcolm-Mid.	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	
	27	27	27	YTV iCarly	To Be Indie	The First 48 (HDTV)	Wapros Bay	By the Rapids	Flame	Moose TV	Space Cowboys *** (2000, Adventure)	
	16	16	16	A&E The First 48 (HDTV)		10 countdown. (Live)	Tyler Perry Movie Special	Who's Your Caddy? * (2007, Comedy)				
	70	70	70	APTN APTN National News (N)		Storytellers	PhotoXplorers	Innovators	Writers	Everything's Gone Green (2006, Comedy)		
	50	50	50	BET 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Top		Amer. Funniest Home Videos	Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	
	37	37	37	BRVO Emily of New Moon		Just for Laughs	Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	
	25	25	25	CMT Meet-Wilsons	Wilsons	Killer Next Door	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Psychic Detect	Fraud	Killer, Door	
	49	49	49	COM Truth, Duty, Valour		Cash Cab	How It's Made	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	153	153	153	COURT Cash Cab	How It's Made	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	38	38	38	DISC Extreme Makeover: Home		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	38	38	38	HGTV Extreme Makeover: Home		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	46	46	46	HIST Ancestors	Ancestors	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	17	17	17	MM Buffy the Vampire Slayer		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	19	19	19	MMM Buffy the Vampire Slayer		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	201	201	201	M1 (6:55) The Promotion (2008, Comedy)		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	48	48	48	OLN Mantracker		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	51	51	51	PEACH Friends	Seinfeld	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	206	206	206	PIX (6:20) Major Dundee (1965, Western)		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	67	67	67	RDI RDI monde	RDI économie	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	39	39	39	SHOW Han, Montana	Wizards-Place	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	40	40	40	SLICE Whatever	Wedding SOS	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	47	47	47	SPACE Stargate SG-1 Robots		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	14	14	14	LA SPIKE CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	57	57	57	98 STAR etalk	TMZ (N)	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	21	21	21	TLC Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	34	34	34	TROP Planet Soap	Comeback	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	20	20	20	TV5 Que-champion	Journal de F2	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	28	28	28	V Ekhaya - A Family Chronicle		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	97	97	97	VIVA Ghostly Inc.	Ghostly Inc.	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	22	22	22	W House-Sell	House-Sell	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	
	251	251	251	WGN WGN Evening News		House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Notstradamus	

critics'corner

Bones

Detractors say video games rot your mind, but who knew they could get you killed? In this episode, Brennan and Booth (Emily Deschanel, David Boreanaz) investigate the death of a successful gamer who'd parlayed his perfect score on a certain game into a moneymaking operation. When his body is found in a grease truck, they uncover a variety of people with reasons to want him gone in "The Gamer in the Grease." 9 PM on CHIF FOX

Grey's Anatomy

Teddy (Kim Raver) asks Hunt (Kevin McKidd) for help when a patient of hers wants to end her life. This has Hunt reliving his war experiences and his past with Teddy. The future, not the past, is on the minds of Callie and Arizona (Sara Ramirez, Jessica Capshaw), who have different ideas about where they're going. 10 PM on ABC CJCH

The Maiden Heist

The distributor's financial woes kept this 2009 caper comedy out of theaters despite a stellar cast. Morgan Freeman, Christopher Walken and William H. Macy star as museum security guards who are distressed to learn their favorite artworks are being sent overseas. 10 PM on M1

Private Practice

A surrogate mother's husband wants to take her off life support, but a judge overrules him, forcing the doctors to keep her alive until the fetuses are able to survive. Naomi (Audra McDonald) feels betrayed by Sam and Addison's (Taye Diggs, Kate Walsh) feelings for each other and seeks support from Dr. Fife (Michael Patrick Thornton) while William (Chris Lowell) is away. Tim Daly also stars in the new episode "Pulling the Plug." 11:01 PM on ABC ASN

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Hedley - Perfect

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Symposium on sustainability

The Green Roots Symposium: Community Action on Sustainability, Education and Partnerships, takes place Friday and Saturday at the Prince George Hotel, 1725 Market St. Information available at: esd_novascotia@lsf-lst.ca or call 454-6846. **VALERIE MANSOUR/FOR METRO HALIFAX**

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It's too much to handle so we order appetizers while we ponder. Quesadillas (\$8.99) are tasty with cheese, chicken, green onions, tomatoes and pep-

pers, inside a flour tortilla, with salsa and sour cream. Chicken Corn Chowder (Cup \$3.99) is sadly reminiscent of canned cream corn of another era.

We get our wing act together and try three small orders (\$5.99) — Indian Hot Curry (with coconut), Baja Chipotle — orange, chipotle and cinnamon; and Chili and Lime. We take home a large (\$9.99) "dry spice" order with Jamaican jerk sauce. The sauces are flavourful and the wings are nicely cooked and a decent size.

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RISE FROM THE ASHES The

venerable Café Chianti is re-opening in May at 1241 Barrington St. Forced by fire damage from its historic South Street location, Chianti will take its European cuisine around the corner. **VALERIE MANSOUR/**

FOR METRO HALIFAX

In brief

LUNCH Literary luncheon featuring authors Donna Morrissey, Lesley Choyce and Steve Vernon takes place Thursday at noon at the Halifax Club, 1682 Hollis St.

BOOK Nimbus Publishing has

just launched a new book called *Grow Organic: A Simple Guide to Nova Scotia Vegetable Gardening*, written by Elizabeth Peirce.

VALERIE MANSOUR/
FOR METRO HALIFAX

Global Peasant blog online

- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her *Global Peasant* blog.
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Matt Damon thrilled restaurant staff by leaving a \$400 tip. The actor splashed out on a specially prepared dinner for himself, wife Luciana and a group of friends at New York nightclub Stanton Social on Saturday, femalefirst.co.uk reports **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

He's donating money to the starving actor fund

Celebrity Buzz

Ex-wife: James a 'serial cheater'

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT HE COULDN'T GET ANY SKETCHIER

TMZ is reporting a former high-level, female executive with West Coast Choppers settled a sexual harassment lawsuit against Jesse James and West Coast Choppers for more than \$700,000 US in 2007, while he was married to Sandra Bullock, according to documents.

Also, James has been branded a "chronic cheater" by his ex-wife, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Janine Lindemulder — who separated from the motorcycle enthusiast after one year of marriage in May 2003 — insists she wasn't surprised to learn the Monster Garage presenter had bedded tattoo model Michelle "Bombshell" McGee while current spouse Bullock was away shooting *The Blind Side*.

Lindemulder — who has five-year-old daughter Sunny with James —

said: "He's a chronic cheater. I feel sorry for Sandra because she was so in love with Jesse that she was blind

and gullible.

"She once said, 'I finally have a man who has my back.' And all I could think was, 'No. You have this man who does it behind your back.'"

Lindemulder claims that James was unfaithful to her soon after they tied the knot and he refused to change his behaviour throughout their union.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Elin to be a no-show at Masters tourney

JESSE JAMES: THIS IS YOUR FUTURE When Tiger Woods makes his much-anticipated return to golf at the Masters, his wife, Elin Nordegren, will be thousands of miles away, as she's reportedly planning on taking their kids back to Sweden, according to People magazine.

"Elin wants to stay away from Augusta and not get involved in the frenzy of the Masters," a source says. "By not going, she sends a signal that she is staying with Tiger only because of the children. They come first."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

KESHA doesn't want a feud with Justin, **LANCE ARMSTRONG** is not looking forward to the weekend, **MICHAEL IAN BLACK** is sprucing up his speech, and **CONAN O'BRIEN** goes after an older woman.

@keshasuxx dear justin b i am so sorry if my bad joke has hurt your feelings. u r obviously talented and i would never mean to offend u. i think u r rad

@lancearmstrong Hard 4 hour ride today. Hurt like hell. Not as much as Saturday is gonna hurt tho!

@michaelianblack Need to start incorporating, "Oh, Hell no" more into my daily speech.

@ConanOBrien I'm worried health care has pushed my Tour out of the headlines. I'm also worried my anti-delusion pills are wearing off. Need more pills.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Rihanna gets a special drum lesson

TURN THE BEAT AROUND Looks like Rihanna is expanding her music knowledge — with a little help from Blink 182's Travis Barker, popeater.com reports.

"Teaching Rihanna some things on drums. She JAMS!!!! Watch out for her!!" Barker posted on Twitter Tuesday, along with a photo of the pair at a rehearsal space in L.A.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Heroes star brags about boxer beau

HE WILL BREAK YOU Hayden Panetiere admits dating boxer Vladimir Klitschko has been a new experience for her.

"I've never had an athlete as a boyfriend before, and it's an exciting experience," she says, according to Hollyscoop.

"I think it's awesome that he's so athletic, but I'm most fascinated with his intelligence. He's unbelievably clever."



The *Heroes* star also admits there are added benefits to dating a boxer. "Even though

I'm small, I can dish it out too. But I have to admit, I feel really protected with such a strong man by my side," she says. "Now, whenever someone's bugging me, I say: 'Look out, my boyfriend is a boxer!'"

No word if he will be able to rescue her show next season.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Lindsay rumoured to design for Ed Hardy

THEY'RE TRYING TO CLASS UP THEIR IMAGE. CLEARLY After being dropped as artistic director for Emanuel Ungaro earlier this month, Lindsay Lohan has reportedly found a new designer to work with.

Sources say the actress is in talks with the folks at Ed Hardy to design a line of handbags, according to E! News. Lohan has denied the collaboration is taking place.

"Lindsay and the design team at Ed Hardy have mutual friends, and they knew she was interested in looking for a handbag license and partner," a source says. "They thought she'd be a good fit and so did she."

Lohan, however, denies it, posting on Twitter, "I am not designing for Ed Hardy."



Lohan has publicly denied something that later turned out to be true.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The truth behind Brad Pitt's beard

BILLY GOAT BRAD That much-discussed beard on Brad Pitt's superstar chin has now surpassed the excuse of novelty. And it's not even there for a role, people.com reports. Now the actor has given his reason for the straggly facial fluff: He can't be bothered to change it. "It's boredom. No other reason than that," he told Britain's Sun while chatting in the London kitchen of supermodel Claudia Schiffer and Matthew Vaughn — the director and Pitt's fellow producer on the upcoming movie *Kick-Ass*.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Splitsville for Kim Kardashian, Bush?

SHE SAID HE'D NEVER LOVE HER LIKE US WEEKLY DOES The blogs are abuzz this week that on-again couple Kim Kardashian and Reggie Bush are on the rocks, usmagazine.com reports.

The truth? The two "aren't sure where their relationship will go," a source close to the couple tells the website.

Bush, a 24-year-old running back for the New Orleans Saints, and Kardashian, 29, have been dating since 2007 before her *E!* show *Keeping Up With the Kardashians* became a huge hit.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

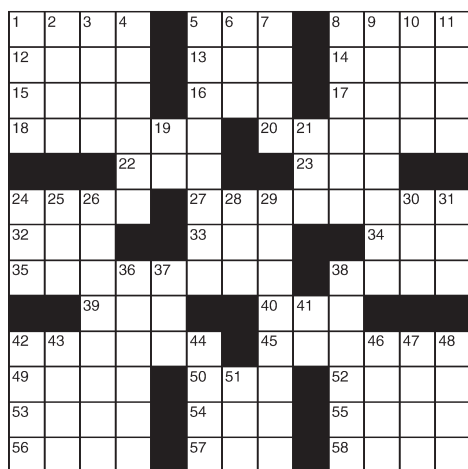




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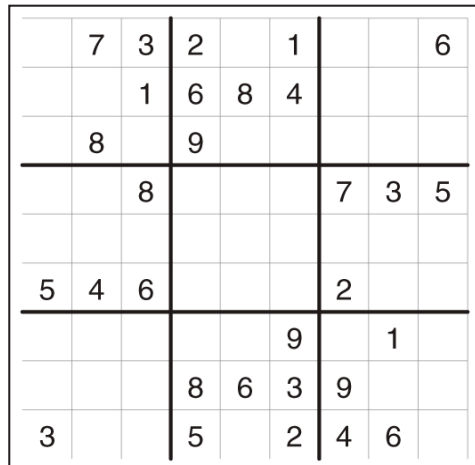
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48 Memory method
51 Meadow

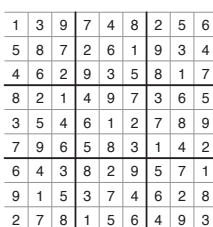
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day



PHOTO BY SARAH ROGERS

Nutty Maple Spinach Salad

Submitted by
Thelma Ball, Dundas, Ont.

INGREDIENTS:

Dressing:
1/4 cup low-fat mayonnaise
1/4 cup maple syrup
3 tbsp white wine vinegar
2 tsp sugar
1/3 cup vegetable oil

Glazed Nuts:

2 tsp sugar
3 tbsp maple syrup
6 tbsp water
3/4 cup whole walnuts or pecans

Salad

1/4 cup soft goat cheese
1 small bag of baby spinach
1 small red onion
12 thin slices of pickled beet

METHOD:

1. Whisk together mayonnaise, 1/4 cup maple syrup, white wine vinegar, sugar

and vegetable oil in a small bowl for 2 minutes. Refrigerate.

2. Mix the sugar, 3 tablespoons maple syrup and water in a small pan. Stirring constantly, bring to a slow boil over low heat. Reduce heat and add nuts. Stir to coat. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside to cool.
3. Wash spinach and dry well. Divide between 4 to 5 salad plates. Top with 3 slices of beet and thin slices of red onion. Crumble soft goat cheese on each salad and top with a generous amount of glazed nuts. Drizzle with dressing.

SERVES 4 TO 5

PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES



20 Minute Supper Club helps you get dinner ready in a snap. Sign up for quick and delicious recipes, cooking and food tips. It's free at 20minute supperclub.com

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20



You will have plenty to say for yourself today and others would be wise to take note. However, don't repeat yourself on and off for the rest of the day.

LIBRA SEPT 23-OCT 23



Good times are coming — you just know it — but you would be wise not to take too much for granted.

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21



Stand back from what you are doing and try to see it from a wider perspective. You are about to embark on an exceptionally busy phase.

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22



You seem strangely subdued at the moment and, if you can, you will quite happily spend some time on your own.

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21



You may be eager to get started on something you have been planning for months, but a few more days won't make much difference.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21



Are you trying too hard? Are you forcing yourself to do things that do not come naturally? Maybe that's the reason for your negative outlook.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22



The more you try to resolve a family crisis of some kind the more the solution evades you — a most frustrating state of affairs.

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20



The planets warn if you play safe and take no risks at all you could miss out on an opportunity to move up in the world.

LEO JULY 23-AUG 23



Travel and social plans may have to be postponed today but you won't be too disappointed.

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18



If your current way of doing things is getting results then don't change it even a fraction.

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22



Don't give away information about your financial situation, certainly not to strangers and not even to friends.

PISCES FEB 19-MARCH 20



Certain duties or commitments have to be dealt with and there is no way you will be able to wriggle out of them.

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Canadian Cancer Society / Société canadienne du cancer

Financial contribution from
Health Canada / Santé Canada

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EVENT

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**0% UP TO
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